



Bob and Jan MacLean
P.O. Box 162 BMD CPA 15330, Indonesia
mackurus@yahoo.com
SKYPE rcmacca or jklmac1

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Reaching Indonesia For Jesus

Indonesian Christian Mission
c/o Scott McMillan
870 Vermont Street
Gridley, CA 95948
530-632-9152
reserveaf@comcast.net

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE MISSION

By
The Peripatetic Preacher

There is much to read, absorb, and ponder over in this Indonesian Challenge.

NEW ARRIVAL –

Jan and I welcomed **Amani Reign Lynn** born on September 11. She is the first-born of our first-born's first-born! Adrian and his wife, Hawa, welcomed this beautiful, healthy baby girl as did Grandma Becky. Amani is our first great-grand and we hope to meet her in Portland, Oregon sometime next year.



DEPARTURES - We bid farewell to our old friend, **Tarto Supomo**, of the village of Jelok, Boyolali. Bapak Tarto went to be with His Lord October 9th, the night of my birthday. He is special to us in several ways. When Ed Furnas invited us to accept the invitation of a group of thirteen former Communists in six villages up the mountain from Boyolali, we decided to teach them thirteen lessons before asking for commitments, but at lesson five, one came to us and said, "We believe." We baptized them and a little later, Jan with Louise Furnas baptized their wives. From that time, they ran with the Gospel. We continued to teach, but they built the church. Bapak Tarto and his wife were outstanding converts from the evangelism

of these first Christians in Jelok. Bapak Tarto and his wife reared four children. One married a village boy and they are now preaching in the town of Kopeng above Salatiga. Another has been the teacher of Greek at the local Bible College. Bapak Tarto himself eventually preached on a regular schedule in four villages; he lost his wife in an accident along the way, then lost his sight so that at the end, he was preaching in just one village. Our son, Rob lived with Tarto's family for four months during his Bible College internship. Pak Tarto leaves a wonderful Christian legacy in his family who all serve the Lord and praise God for his life.

In September, a long-time Christian friend and supporter, **Della Andrew** went to be with the Lord. Hers was a life of helps and being a faithful friend to many. Della worked very faithfully in her retirement years with her husband, Bob, at Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ) an organization that coordinates and facilitates social ministries in local churches. Della was 73. We were honored to have our tribute to Della read at her memorial service. Here it is:



"We remember Della; she was light; she was joy; she was beautiful inside and out. She was the ultimate woman, constantly talking, constantly enriching our lives, and a consummate Christian. When we saw her in January, she cheerfully explained, "I have little cancers all through my body. I'm not afraid to go to Heaven. After all, I have lots of friends up there."

So we do not weep for Della, but we do weep for you, Bob, and for your two wonderful, loving daughters, and yes for ourselves. But in a word of scripture, "we do not mourn as those who have no hope." We shall see her again. Meanwhile, we will continue to mourn her absence while rejoicing to realize that for Della, absent from the body, is present with the Lord."



OLD FRIEND – FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN - Early this month, Bapak Dono, who taught with us, came to lunch. While we were eating he told our associate, “I first met Pak Bob in Boyolali. I wasn’t even a Christian then, but I wanted to meet the white man who had moved into the village of Randusari. I was very worried that my English wouldn’t be good enough. Imagine my shock when he answered me in Javanese!” Pak Dono studied under me at the INALTA Bible College, then Pak Dono taught at the Bible College we ran for eight years. He is now ministering to the third church he has established, all by trusting Christ alone, all with Indonesian money alone. We visited last week and I preached to some eighty adults in the lovely large church building they have built while forty children were in Sunday School.

LAND TITLE UPDATE - Of continuing interest is the faltering way our mission land title story unfolds. Two months ago we had only to present our papers to the tax office, pay two year’s real estate taxes and the title transfer fee, then present the tax receipts to the land office to receive our new deed. Today as I write this after our secretary was forced to get yet two more documents after going back and forth between four separate government offices. (At one time she told them, “I don’t want to be a ping-pong ball). So this week after much more frustration mostly attributable to corruption, we are “promised” the tax and transfer bills on Friday, Oct. 30. Did you notice, they found several more things for us and several more times to put their hands out, and no progress can be reported although much has been done. We’ll keep you informed. **Do Pray.**

GOOD NEWS ON THE WORKBOOKS - The first two of seven workbooks for “Rencana Penebusan” (Scheme of Redemption) are finished, ready to go to press, and our good friends and fellow-workers at LATM have already sent the money to pay for the printing. We hope to have all seven completed early in the new year in order to start teaching in village churches and small Bible studies.



IBU KOKOM is a committed Muslim lady married to an American retired army sergeant who is committed to neither Islam nor Christianity. But she is a good friend to Jan, always wanting to help even if it’s to cook for Christian activities. At one time she seemed like one of our “team”, always attended Christmas and other church activities. Then she decided to be a better Muslim and stayed away. Now she usually wears Muslim dress when going out. However, she’s been asking more and more questions about Christianity comparing it to Islam. Please pray that she can see that love and forgiveness are found in Jesus Christ.

PAK LEO AND IBU TATI are Christian neighbors we lost contact with, but they came to our Friday night Bible study and then again to our large gathering on October 10th when we celebrated baby Oliver’s birth, Melody’s 2nd birthday, and Bob’s birthday. They brought two of their grandchildren. The Christians in our housing development used to get together on Friday nights to pray for each other and our neighbors. We feel it’s especially important to get this started again. Our Muslim neighbors are a lot more rigid than they were many years ago when they participated in Christmas celebrations by cooking. We want to unite as Christians even though we attend different churches, to pray and seriously go out and witness to our neighbors.



PRAISES AND PRAYER NEEDS:

1. We thank God for a beautiful healthy great-granddaughter.
2. Evangelist Andreas’ daughter, Lala, graduated from college last month and is now a mid-wife. (see photo below left)
3. We are thankful for all our Christian friends here and in the U.S.
4. We praise God that the workbooks for village evangelism and Bible studies are becoming a reality.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Evangelists – Rekno and Samini, (photo on right) Andreas and Lewi, Arlin and Martius, for their wisdom and safety as they share Jesus’ love.
2. Increase in ICM general fund income so monthly salaries can be made on time.
3. Evangelists, preachers, and Christians as they prepare for their “Natalans”



(Christmas services), glorify God, and reach out to non-believers.

4. The land title to be completed by Christmas.