

Indonesian Challenge

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Reaching Indonesia for Jesus

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MINISTRY IN ACEH

By Samuel and Martha - Part III

In part II, we find that it's getting harder and harder to witness to the Acehese. In our last newsletter, Samuel and Martha asked for wisdom and guidance regarding their ministry and location and college for their daughter.. On July 14, Martha writes, "The conditions in Aceh are getting more and more dangerous for Christians. Two of our friends are in jail for proclaiming the Gospel. One church has been destroyed. Many evangelists have left Banda, Aceh. We



praise the Lord because the people we have been ministering to have not been bothered. Through much prayer and fasting, we decided we had to accompany our daughter to Jakarta so she could continue her education. Our hearts were torn, but we couldn't let Tabitha go to an Islamic school in Aceh, and we feel she still needs us nearby, especially in the large city of Jakarta. We will not forget our disciples, our new believers in Aceh. We are keeping touch with about ten people via text messages and the telephone. We have now been in Jakarta two weeks; we have already

started a Thursday night Bible study. One of the families that worked with us in our café ministry before we went to Aceh want to fellowship with us and minister with us. Wherever we are, our passion and work is to bring souls to Jesus, our Lord. Please pray for us, for wisdom, for the Lord's guidance and His will as we continue to serve Him. Amin"

PUASA—RAMADAN

On Friday, July 20th, the majority of our neighbors will begin a month of fasting. This means they get up about 4 a.m. to eat and then don't eat or drink again until after sundown. We used to feel that this method of fasting was just changing times of eating. When we did it ourselves one year, we found it wasn't easy. We've noticed that food prices have risen, many staples for baking are already missing from the stores, and today, Sunday the streets are much busier than usual.



Although this is a time of fasting, after sundown special drinks and sweets are prepared to "buka puasa" (break the fast) before the evening meal. August 19 and 20 are the days of celebration after the month of fasting ends. About a week before we will be noticing very empty streets in Jakarta as people go home to their villages. This is a time when the Muslims spend extra time in prayer, ask forgiveness of their families and friends, and are in general more spiritually receptive. This is a time when Christians can socialize with their Muslim neighbors in the evenings. In the picture Bob, Gimin, and Parno are posing in their Scotland caps. Please pray as we continue to present Christ to these two men who work for us.

OUR FUTURE – OUR IMMEDIATE WORK AND PLANNING 2012 – 2013

We are very involved in mentoring – teaching and guiding - church planters in starting new churches. The following is a detailed list of our ministry projects.

1. We continue to market the book “Rencana Penebusan” (Scheme of Redemption). We hope to sell out our first printing this year.
2. We are guiding and mentoring two new American interns to where they can do missions on their own.
3. We continue to work with seven church planters in the nine to twelve months lead-up to opening a new church plant.
4. We are guiding one evangelist who is honing his entrepreneurial skills as he develops a small business while working and planning to open a new church plant.
5. We are seeking new income to continue present mission program obligations.
6. We want to develop a fund to finance other entrepreneurial church planters to be self supporting in their work. (the present church planter’s business is entirely funded by me from my personal savings)
7. We need to increase the scholarship fund to \$2,000 in order to start our translator on a Bible centered master’s degree.
8. We are working with a Christian neighbor to coordinate monthly prayer meetings with all Christians in our 1200 home subdivision.



Bob with church planters in Salatiga

PRAYER & PRAISE

PRAISES - Thank you Lord

1. Bob and Jan celebrated 52 years of marriage July 8.
2. July 9 marked 38 years of ministry in Indonesia.
3. Bob and Jan vacationed on the Isle of Mull celebrating the centenary of the repurchase of Duart Castle. About 1000 MacLeans joined in a triumphal commemorative march Saturday, June 23. Our son Rob and wife, Jeanene joined us there and we traveled for a week with them exploring Scotland.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Samuel and Martha as they continue to communicate with the believers in Aceh, register their daughter in college, and begin a new ministry in Jakarta.
2. Increased mission income to meet monthly needs
3. Complete healing for Evangelist Bintang who has a virus infecting his liver.
4. Letter from regional land office to local land office requesting them to issue our land title.
5. Jan’s new residence visa; it should be an easy thing to accomplish, but somehow little complications keep occurring.

PLEASE NOTE:

We run a very minimal mission general fund. This year income has been about \$1,500 per month below budget causing us to run a budget deficit. Do please pray that we will find new income and will end the year solvent. We would dearly love to inaugurate some new projects,

but as things stand we’ll be happy to continue present work, and Oh! If you know someone who seems interested, please tell them about this ministry – a church planting effort to help Indonesians establish spiritually strong financially independent churches.

ICM GENERAL FUND INCOME

May \$5012.83

June \$3457.83

AVERAGE TO DATE \$3733.09

MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDS \$ 5,200.00