

MISSIONS TO INDONESIA

Newsletter of June 2020

“Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.
See, I have this day set you over the
nations and over the kingdoms.”
(Jeremiah 1:9b-10a, NKJV)



“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed
throughout the whole world as a testimony to
all nations, and then the end will come.”
(Matthew 24:14, ESV)

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Greetings,

We give thanks to our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus for your partnership with us. Wherever you are, I believe you have seen the global impact of Covid-19. This pandemic may even have affected your family, work, business, and ministry in some ways. We have been praying, therefore, may God bestow upon you His grace and blessings more abundantly. We have been specifically asking Him to strengthen



your faith, comfort your heart, enlighten your mind, and provide your needs. Nevertheless, may we learn, like the apostle Paul, to be content in whatever state we are, that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Opportunities in Crisis

Throughout history, God uniquely uses various circumstances to bring glory to His Name and to lead people to His Son, Jesus. As you may have known, physical struggles often generate a spiritual hunger to find an absolute answer to the origin, meaning, morality, and destiny of life. That is what happens in our ministries!

An Indonesian lady (Jane) suddenly contacted me a few weeks ago. She recently moved to Memphis from another state. Her marriage, family, and work were all fine. However, Covid-19 caused her to suffer a severe panic attack. Her whole life was then totally messed up. I am grateful, therefore, that God moved her to reach me. After a series of biblical counseling, she has felt much better. The Gospel that I shared with her has replaced her fear of death with peace as she believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior. The assurance of God's love and provision has given her comfort and strength in this challenging situation. Please pray, therefore, that Jane will grow in her faith as God sustains her to choose courage over fear, peace over anxiety every single day.

Before this pandemic, I always had opportunities, at least once a month, to share or preach at American churches. But this global challenge has postponed my speaking engagement here. Interestingly, quite the opposite, it has given me more opportunities to serve my Christian brothers and sisters in Indonesia. Social media has allowed me to get connected with Christian fellowships and churches back home. Through various online platforms, I have led some Bible studies, shared some teachings, and preached some sermons. To be honest, such ministries were not as easy as it might look. Specific technical issues have become a unique challenge to be communicative, not even effective. Please pray, therefore, that God will help me to get better with this “new” trend of ministries.



My ministry partners in Indonesia, to whom I have been channeling some of your financial supports, also have found more opportunities to reach their communities.

David

He is our alumnus who began to plant a church in Namo Trasi, North Sumatra, in December 2018. David has visited more households during this pandemic. He brings some substantial groceries to help those who have been laid off or could not work outside anymore. As his mentor, I am very proud of David because he always first seeks, even creates a chance to share the Gospel before he hands over the donation to them. I hope they would soon join with one of the six house churches David has just organized there. Due to social distancing, I encouraged him in April to empower some church members to lead those small groups. Please pray that David's physical condition (his left leg was amputated in 2017 due to severe diabetes) will not hinder his missions.



Candra



I met Candra when I was working on my Bachelor of Theology in the 2000s. After his graduation, Candra went back to his home city Pare, East Java. Since then, he has been contributing effectively to his neighborhood. This smart, creative, and energetic young man has helped his predominantly Muslim community in various ways. During this pandemic,

Candra and his team have been disinfecting the surrounding clusters. They have been giving away food packages to the needy, also empowering those who have been laid off by buying their homemade face masks. Candra even has opportunities to interact with some students of an Islamic boarding school. Just recently, he also started weekly fellowship and discipleship for Christians from other regions who have moved to Pare to study. Please pray that God will give wisdom and protection as Candra shares the love and the good news of Jesus with his community.

Kelik

Early this year, Kelik provided 100 pairs of glasses for his neighbors in Sonorejo, Central Java. Kelik's creativity in giving real impacts to his community has opened the hearts of his conservative Muslim neighbors to receive him and his church. Further, it has given Kelik more opportunities to share the Gospel with them. He is now focusing on



providing affordable, even free face masks, and a simple sports center for his community. Please be praying for Kelik.

Rudi

After his graduation in August 2017, my student Rudi went back to his home village in Sekadau, West Borneo. There he is serving as an interim pastor of a small congregation. At the end of April, I helped them to have electricity installed in their church building. Since they are now one of just a few households that have electricity in that area, the church has been hosting their neighbors for meetings. Rudi has also been gathering the young generation there. His commitment to Jesus, his passion for the Gospel, and his heart to his people group have made Rudi a fruitful minister. Please pray for him to serve well despite the condition of his right eye, which nearly goes blind, because of an accident a few years ago.



SAIN (Loving Indonesian Children)

About our nation-wide children discipleship movement (SAIN), our task force has reported that we had good reports from January to March. Our mentors have applied their training to reach and disciple children in their churches and communities. However, as social distancing being implemented by our government, most of them could not get together



physically. Our task force, therefore, is working on building a website that will provide various contents. We hope our mentors could later use and share it with the children, even their parents. In the meantime, some of

them have used social media as their platforms of discipleship. Please pray, therefore, that God will help our task force and our creative/media team to have the website available soon.

Jakarta Baptist Seminary

Unfortunately, my seminary in Jakarta has been going through a very challenging time. Since the regional quarantine implemented in the middle of March, some of the classes have not been going well. The quarantine does not allow some professors to come and teach on our campus. Our education system is still not ready for an online teaching-learning process either.



Further, our students have been staying in their dormitories and could not go to their local churches on the weekend. We then must provide



their meals for the whole week. Praise the Lord, He has supplied some of our needs through several churches and people in Jakarta. I also have sent your financial support to help them. Please pray, however, that this situation will get better soon. We would love to see our students

being allowed to leave our campus – ministering in local churches and sharing the Gospel with people in Jakarta and surroundings.

Further, as I have shared with you in my last newsletter, I would like to thank you for praying for our seminary students. Two churches have sponsored three of our students (Adit, Willy, and Ricki).



However, according to our VP of Administration and Finance, around ten students still really need financial support due to their family situation. So, please pray that God will open more opportunities for me to share their need with individuals and churches here while I am working on my doctoral study.

My Study and Family

This semester I took two seminars: Hebrews/General Epistles and Graduate Teaching. I am so grateful that I have received grade A for both. I really enjoyed both seminars, especially when I was writing my paper on the supremacy of Jesus in the book of Hebrews and its implications for Christians in a pluralistic society. There were moments of truth as my research convinced me of Jesus as the ultimate answer to the fourfold essential issues of any worldview: origin, meaning, morality, and destiny. Please pray as I am considering doing my dissertation research on this topic with specific implications to theological training in the Indonesian pluralistic context.



Thanks to your prayers, my wife Eni has been doing fine. After her cancer treatments were completed, Eni's hair grows back quickly. She has been taking one estrogen-blocking tablet daily from January to the next five years. Sometimes this therapy makes her feel weak or dizzy and having muscle-pain. But, most of the time, Eni is fine. She has been a



great help for me, especially in taking care of the house and helping our sons, Raka and Rapha, to grow well.



Before social distancing took place, Raka and Rapha went to karate class at our home church. Raka is a black-belt trainee, and Rapha is a green belt. Raka also took a piano class with our neighbor. He is working on Level 2 Beginner. Although they were very

disappointed that their soccer and swimming classes this spring got canceled, they know how to enjoy their time at home.

Having studied from home since the end of March, Raka has completed his fourth grade very well. The school inducted him among a few other students into the National Junior Beta



Club. Rapha has also completed his preschool and is looking forward to becoming a kindergartener in August. Above all, Eni and I are so grateful to see them grow spiritually.

Having received Jesus as his Lord and Savior in the VBS last year, Raka decided to be baptized on February 23rd, six days after his tenth birthday. Rapha has been showing an excellent spiritual understanding through his prayers and conversations. Please pray, however, for Rapha. Since we came back to the States in December 2018, he has been having dry-itchy skin and nose-bleeding. We really hope that as we follow our doctor and friends' suggestions, Rapha will be much better.

To conclude, please know how we are so grateful to the Lord because of you. We really treasure your friendship and partnership. We are what we are today because of your love. We have been able to keep doing our mission ministries in Indonesia because of your supports. We, therefore, always remember you in our prayers. May our sovereign and gracious Father pour upon you His grace and blessings as you keep looking upon our Lord Jesus in this challenging season.