

7 January 2016

Dear Pastor Dehnke and folks at Central Baptist Church,

Janice and I send you greetings from Jakarta. As the new year begins, we want to take a quick look back, but mostly we want to let you know what we are planning for the year 2018 here in Indonesia.

On January 1, 2017 we started a new church in South Jakarta, Gereja Baptist Independent Indonesia (GBII) Simply Jesus. We have a nice facility with good parking, great security and easy access. As this was a totally new church plant, the church started with just Janice and myself. On the first Sunday of January 2017, we had eight in attendance and on the last Sunday of December we had 13 in attendance. Our attendance has roller coasted up and down through the year. In October, Brother Leo Balanzo and his family joined with us to help in the ministry. The most discouraging moments in starting the work have been when good prospects decide to leave us for more established ministries. However, the thrill of sharing the gospel with the new contacts that God is bringing into our lives continues to encourage us. In November, the building management further encouraged us by offering to extend our contract for another year at the same price we are presently paying.



How can you help us as we start our second year of ministry at GBII Simply Jesus?

- First, please pray for the unsaved people that regularly attend our services.
- Secondly, you can pray that the Lord will help us to promote the ministry effectively. There are restrictions on distribution of religious material here in Jakarta, but on a personal level we can distribute invitations to people we meet in our daily routines. Janice has done a wonderful job of this as she has a wide circle of contacts in the local community and in the expatriate community. Over the past few years, the majority of my contact has been with the students and pastors of our ministry here in Indonesia; consequently, I do not have much of contact circle for the new church. So now, I am endeavoring to reach out into the area where our church is located to make new contacts. Over the past few months, I have used social media to promote the work. In December, my series of message ads reached well over sixty thousand people in the greater Jakarta area. There were over one thousand likes to the messages and I have those contacts. What to do with those contacts is another matter. I need to proceed in a godly, wise manner. During one of our recent Christmas services, I talked with a man who is a member of one of our churches here in Jakarta. This man develops media content for large companies and he is helping me develop a local plan to wisely and effectively use these new contacts.
- Thirdly, pray that the Lord will give wisdom in giving Biblical answers to the people that are making comments about my ads. The ads normally run on Friday night through Sunday evening.

I would also ask you to pray for Grace Baptist School that we are working with on the island of Batam. The school is doing good. It finished this last semester with 12 students. However, during this next year the school will need to build a building to house the school if we are going to meet governmental regulations. Presently the school is using Grace Baptist Church's building. The school can continue to use the church building, but needs to show the government that they are in the process of developing an approved school building. The church has land to build the school building so it is just a matter of starting to build an approved building on that land. If you would like to help out this endeavor, I would appreciate it.

December was a busy time for us as we were in many Christmas services in our churches here in Jakarta. It was really nice to be with many folks that we have not seen for a long time. Pray for our churches here in Jakarta as they face many challenges.

Personally, Janice and I are doing fine. Janice has been struggling with an infected tooth over the past few days but she seems to be on the mend. Pray the Lord will continue to give us good health.

For your faithful prayers and financial support we are truly thankful.

In Christ,

*Tom & Janice Crawford*



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

**Received in November \$ 250,00**

**Received in December \$ 125,00**