

The Crawfords

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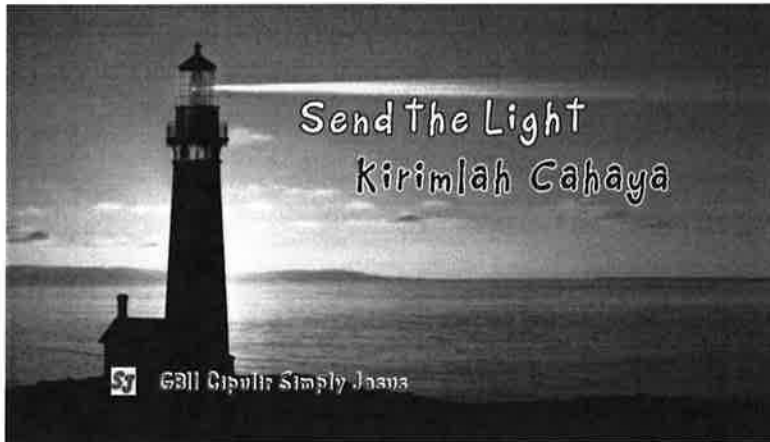
Jakarta, 10 December 2018

Dear Pastor Grieme and folks at Central Baptist Church,

Janice and I send you greetings from Jakarta. These past few months have been challenging, busy and fruitful! Each week we have faced new ministry challenges, dropping into bed each evening physically exhausted, yet filled with joy as the Lord brings new people into the ministry that He has given us. So, with this letter, we want to ask you folks to continue to pour out your hearts to God for the ministry the Lord has given us here in Indonesia, while sharing the joy we have being your laborers here in Jakarta.

This January 1, will be the second anniversary of *Simply Jesus Baptist Church* here in Jakarta. My prayer as we started this church was simple, *Lord send us some God called men*. We started with a great venue in one of the fastest growing sections of Jakarta. I prepared fliers to advertise the church, and I worked diligently at trying to get them into the huge apartment buildings that dotted the main artery where our venue was located. A few people came: two young ladies came to know the Lord, we were able to train a young Malaysian wife to win souls, Brother Leo Balonzo and his family joined with us to help in the ministry, and the English ministry often had service rarely Janice and Tom.

One of the services, told apartments, I page and an a Simply Jesus instagram had an active the Simply generating a lot attendance at the Indonesian services remained, mostly Janice and Tom.



visitors. Yet, the Indonesia had visitors, often it was just young families that attended the me that to get into the needed to develop a facebook instagram account. So, I started facebook page with a connected account and web page. I soon group of people gathered around Jesus facebook page that was of social media attention, yet the

Over time, it was obvious that the venue we were using was not conducive to developing an Indonesian service. Finally, I had to accept that we needed a more public venue. God immediately provided a new venue, a new hotel on the upper floors of a small mall within walking distance of the Cipulir Church. With the new venue and the help of the Cipulir Church, the Indonesia service took off and God sent us our first solid, *God called man*. However, our joy in the new venue was short lived as some of the local religious leaders pressured the hotel to stop the services.

We moved the services into the Cipulir Baptist Church building while we endeavored to obtain permission to use the hotel for services. Over the past few months Pastor Pri and I have spent our time visiting and challenging the members to grow in their faith. Both the Indonesian and English services continued to have good attendance, but getting visitors to come to the Cipulir church building was (is) difficult due to its limited accessibility.

With permission to use the hotel stymied and the difficulty of accessing the Cipulir Church building, God opened a new venue, an apartment building that is between the Cipulir church and the hotel. It just so happens that Brother Balonzo and Brother Beny live in that apartment building! Brother Beny, wrote a letter of request to the apartment management requesting to have Christian services in the apartment's public room for all the Christians that live in the apartment complex. Included with the request was a letter from Simply Jesus Baptist Church agreeing to lead the services.

Starting the second Sunday of November, we have been having our services in the public room at the apartment complex. The room is large, but not ideal for services as the acoustics are difficult, but God has blessed and we have had 20 new visitors come to the services. The other problem is that we have to share the room when there are other requests to use the room on Sunday morning. So far it has only happened once, and we just moved our service back to the Cipulir Church building for that Sunday.



Just this week the apartment building, noticing the number of people attending the service asked Brother Balonzo and Brother Beny if they could help organize a Christmas service for the Christians in the building. This Saturday, we will be having a Christmas service for all Christians that live in the apartment building sponsored by the building management. This is exciting as the apartment complex has never before had a special service for Christians. We ask you to pray for this service.

Over the past few months Simply Jesus Baptist Church has sponsored two major events where we invited all the Independent Baptist churches here in Jakarta to participate. We had Pastor Benny Abante (Metropolitan Bible Baptist Ekklesia) come for a stewardship conference in of the Anugerah Baptist use his building for the preached and taught on through *cheerful giving*. He challenged all of us Indonesian build churches with total dependency on Indonesian believers. His teaching on *grace* touched many of our hearts as he challenged us to focus our ministry on allowing God to build His church with our Indonesian believers and their finances.



Then during Thanksgiving week, Simply Jesus Baptist Church sponsored a World Missions Conference here in Jakarta. We invited all the missionaries ministering in Indonesia to attend, and also invited Missionary Lloyd Dellosa (Botswana) and Missionary Jun Pistin (South Asia) to participate in the conference. The conference ran from Sunday to Sunday, but we also had special services with Pastor Gerry Nable (Bethany Baptist Church) during the week. Many of our Independent Baptist church pastors and members attended the special meetings with Pastor Nable. Praise the Lord, the missionaries were able to speak in many of our churches here in Jakarta. Simply Jesus Baptist took on the monthly support of



three missionaries: the Dellosa family (Botswana), the Pistin family (South Asia) and Bobbi Kopoi (Jayapura). Several of the other churches here in Jakarta also decided to support foreign missions.

Pray for Simply Jesus Baptist Church as we seek to reach our neighborhood and the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Continue to pray for legal permission to gain use of a venue in the Cipulir area. We are still working on the hotel situation, but we are stuck trying to get a letter from the owner of the building. Pray that God will give us favor with our local community leaders, and the management of the apartment where we are presently meeting. Pray the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers.

I finished up my preaching class at our Banten Bible school last week. Six students finished the class by delivering their final sermon using their best power point (Impress) presentation. The results were varied, but for the most part, I was pleased with the progress the students made during this semester. I had assigned one of the students to develop a series of messages on the book of Ruth. The final message was entitled, *Happy Ending*. I really enjoyed teaching this group of students. Pray for them as they seek God's will for their lives.



Janice and I have just returned from Batam where we had Christmas services with Grace Baptist School and also Christmas services with Kasih Karunia Baptist Church. Both the church and the school are doing well. The school will need to build facilities for their 2nd



grade classroom that needs to be added by the time the new school year starts. A big thanks to those of you who have helped financially with school building. I do ask that you consider helping

with an offering so we can get the second floor of the the school building ready to receive the 2nd grade students that will be entering the 14th of January 2019. This is a worthy project as we seek to prepare students that: know God, trust God to provide in their lives, and are servants of Jesus Christ.

us

We will be busy with Christmas services over the next few weeks. Also we plan to travel to Jogjakarta on the 26th of December to evangelize in the family of Kus Dwi, a member of Cipulir Baptist Church. Brother Kus Dwi has become very concerned about his family. He and his wife asked Janice and I to travel with his family to Jogjakarta and spend time witnessing to his family. We appreciate your prayers as we make this trip.



On the home front, Janice and I are fine. Tired, but filled with joy to see the way the Lord is working through the ministry of Simply Jesus Baptist Church. We do want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a Joyful Christmas and Blessed New Year.

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

In Christ,

Tom & Janice Crawford
**Thank you for
partnering with us!**

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