

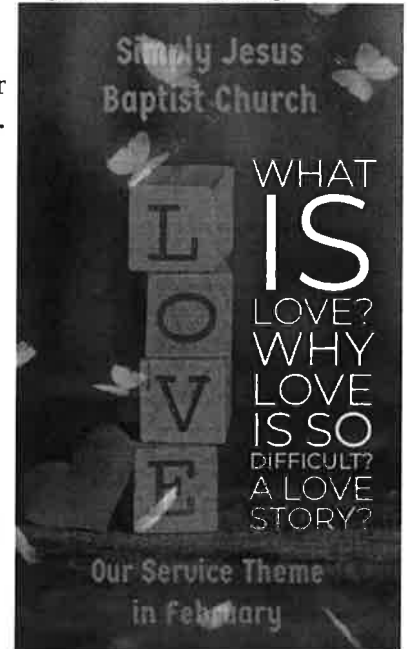
26 February 2019

Dear Pastor Grieme and folks at Central Baptist Church,

Janice and I send you greetings from Jakarta. Over the last couple of months the ministry here in Jakarta has been like riding a roller coaster, lots of ups and downs. We want to share with you God's wonderful grace in our ministry here in Indonesia.

At Simply Jesus Baptist Church the enthusiasm of the missions conference carried over into December as the attendance at both our Indonesian and English services was good. However, in January, the attendance in the Indonesian services nosedived as many people returned home to their families for the holidays. Often it was only Brother Leo Balonzo's family and our family in attendance. The English services continued to be well attended as several of the people from the Cipulir Baptist Church would come for the English services.

February has not been better, as we have once again struggled with getting people to attend the Indonesian services. With the Balonzo family going to the Philippines for a short furlough, every aspect of the church ministry fell back on Janice and me. However, during this time, the Lord did give us several new contacts (mostly for the English service) and we were able to connect with several new contacts in the apartment building where we are now holding services. Now you would assume during this time that our offerings also plummeted, but no. The missions offerings especially continued to pour in from people that we could not get to attend the services! They are excited about giving to world missions. Frustration with lots of head shaking!



This last Sunday, only Brother Beny came to the Indonesian service. So during the time of the Indonesian service, I spent time talking with Beny who is going through some difficult times in his new found faith. While I was dealing with Beny, Janice noticed Ms Era standing outside in the hallway. Janice immediately approached her and asked why she did not come into the service. Era explained that it was because she was late and she really did not feel comfortable attending the English service. Over the past few weeks we have prayed for Era's health and she has been thrilled how the Lord has restored her health. She told Janice that she wanted to help in getting the residents in the apartment to come to the Indonesian services. Janice asked her to come in and talk with Beny. Beny and Era decided that they would talk with the apartment management about ways to better advertise the services and also to ask if the management will allow them to fix up the room where we meet to be more conducive for services. They will be meeting with the apartment manager, so we are praying the Lord will continue to give favor with the building management.

The English services last Sunday were well attended. Afterwards we invited Characha and his girl friend Vashti to come and eat lunch with us at our home. They are an interesting couple that have been attending our English services. As much as we desire the Indonesian service to grow, we are excited about the people the Lord has been sending to our English services. Please pray for the people that are attending our English services.

In January, Janice and I attended our national fellowship of Indonesian Independent Baptists that was held in the mountains south of Jakarta. We spent three days enjoying the fellowship and messages concerning *Preparing the Next Generation to Build Strong Churches in the Modern Era*. We did enjoy our time with our fellow Indonesian pastors and missionaries. Please remember to pray for our national church organization here in Indonesia as it not only gives our churches here legal status with the Indonesian government, but also provides missionary visas for our Independent Baptist missionaries.

Then early in February, Janice and I traveled to the Philippines to attend two conferences. Last year when Pastor Benny Abante held a stewardship conference for us here in Indonesia, he invited the Indonesian pastors to attend his "*Cheerful Giving* conference which was held the first week of February 2019, at his church in Manila. Our delegation from Indonesia consisted of 12 people including pastors, their wives, missionaries and an Indonesian layman. Pastor Abante and his people were lovely hosts and we had the opportunity to hear messages, testimonies and practical applications of teaching the people that God puts in our ministry to be *cheerful givers*.



The following week we attended the World Missions Conference held at Bethany Baptist Church Makati in Manila. The theme of the conference was **NOW**. As always it was impossible to not be inspired and challenged for world missions as you listened to the messages, heard the testimonies and witnessed the commitment of young missionaries determined to follow God's calling. In conjunction with this conference the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse received 29 new missionaries that will be carrying the gospel to people all around the world.



Indonesian delegation that attended the World Missions Conference in the Philippines.

Arriving back in Jakarta, I again began teaching in the Bible school that is run by our pastors in the Banten region. This semester the classes are being held at Pastor Hasiholan's church in Pondok Aren. I was thrilled to find 10 students all ready to start studying. Please pray for these students as they work jobs and come to study in the evening.

Please do not forget to pray for Grace Baptist School on Batam island. Pastor Andar, his wife and church are truly stretching their faith as they seek to build a school to train young people to love



God with their whole heart, mind and soul. They have added the second grade and they are building the necessary facilities needed to train those students. I have attached a picture of pastor Andar standing with the man that owns the building supply store that has literally allowed us to obtain the material we need to continue building. This man is not a believer, but God has touched his heart and he continues to provide us with materials and allows us to pay as the money comes available. He believes our God is able! Pray that he will receive the Lord as his Savior. We would love for you to have a part in this worthy project. If so, please mark your offering, *Batam Project*.



On the personal side, I have struggled with a flu bug since the first of February. I came down with the flu the first day of February. On the first Sunday of February, after finishing my Indonesian sermon, I felt sick and fainted on my way to the men's room. The last thing I remember was my head hitting the ceramic floor. Some of the residents of the apartment carried me to the reception area where a couple of the young people from the Cipulir church began massaging my limbs

with aromatic oils. I finally came around and Pastor Pri and Brother Kus Dwi hauled me over to a local hospital where all my vital signs checked out fine. Over the next two days, the headache subsided and lab tests were consistent with normal



flu symptoms. So on Wednesday we flew to the Philippines where we spent 10 days of hectic activity with little rest. On our arrival back in Jakarta, I was totally exhausted but by God's grace was able to preach on Sunday. This last week I have been able to rest and I slowly seem to be feeling better although still coughing. Janice, of course, has doused me with several herbal cures. Janice is tired as I am not a good patient and she has definitely not got a lot of rest over the past few weeks. However, she is fine.

Janice and I are truly thankful for God's wonderful grace in our lives each day, and the joy of serving Jesus Christ here in Indonesia. We are also so thankful for you wonderful folks who faithfully give and pray for the ministry here in Indonesia. Thank you.

In Christ,
Tom & Janice

Received in December \$125,00

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