

April 6, 2018

Dear Pastor Dehnke and folks at Central Baptist Church,

Janice and I send you greetings from Jakarta. Over the past couple of months Janice and I have been doing a lot of traveling. As some of you know, I strongly dislike to travel. There are no places that I desire to see, but there are people that I love to meet. So I travel to enjoy the people that the Lord has sent into my life or those people the Lord will send into my life. Ministry is all about people and I desire my life to be all about people. Let me catch you up on our lives over the past couple of months.



Our new church plant here in Jakarta (GBII Simply Jesus) is all about trying to reach people with the gospel in the South Jakarta area. We have a good meeting place, good co laborers (the Balanzo family), good music, good preaching, and a good outreach program to make new contacts; but we are struggling to get people to attend our services. So once again we want to ask you to covet with us to pray that the Lord will bring new people into our services.

In January we traveled to Batam for the annual Indonesian Independent Baptist fellowship meeting. The Grace Baptist Church of Batam sponsored the meeting. Pastor Andar and his folks did a good job of preparing for the meeting. We met on the 22nd floor of a nice hotel with a beautiful view of Batam and the surrounding islands reaching all the way to Singapore. Not only was the view great, but we heard good preaching. And of course we had good fellowship with many of our fellow laborers here in Indonesia. The meeting ended with the opportunity for the attendees to take a day trip to Singapore or a day trip to Bintang island. Janice and I made our own day trip to Singapore to visit with our fellow missionary, Dave Ross, who is in the hospital in Singapore. We had a good visit with Brother Ross, his wife Carole and a group from the Ross' home church in Dayton, Ohio.



In February, Janice and I traveled to the Philippines to attend the World Missions Conference at Bethany Baptist Church Makati. During the meeting we were introduced to the 23 new missionary families that had just been approved by the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse. As we gathered up the prayer cards from these missionaries our hearts yearned to be able to support each one of these missionaries through our church in Jakarta. Pray with us that this will become a reality for the Simply Jesus Independent Baptist Church in Jakarta.



After a good time of fellowship with all the pastors and missionaries at the World Missions Conference, Janice and I remained in Manila for an extra two weeks so we could attend the Roundtable Asian Conference and the Spiritual Leadership Conference which was held the last week of February. The Roundtable Asian Conference was very informative, and Lord willing, will help us in further developing the Batam project. The Spiritual Leadership Conference was filled with inspirational messages and a lot of fellowship with old and new friends.

While we were in the Philippines, Pastor Andar began a building project for the Grace Baptist School in Batam. The building is to house the grade school of Grace Baptist School. The building will be needed in order to get the school approved as a religious based school by the Indonesian government. For the last two years we have run an English play school which has experienced modest success with the middle class families in the area of Grace Baptist Church. The families of the students that have attended the play school are quite anxious to keep their children in the school as they enter the elementary grades. On the 17th of March, we promoted the school with an open house. Several new students were enrolled during the open house. The following week, our Batam Yayasan (under which the school is operated) obtained their letter of registration with the Department of Religion. This whole school project is a step of faith and we do want you folks to continue to pray for Grace Baptist School. Pray that the Lord will send us some English speaking people to help in the school. Pray for the registration of the school with the Department of Education. And then pray for the needed finances to build the new school building.



Due to our trip to the Philippines, I started my Bible School classes late. I am teaching Old Testament Survey and New Testament Survey. I have a good group of students in my class.

We arrived back in Jakarta early in March, very tired from the long stay in the Philippines. I came home with a nasty flu bug that I am finally beginning to shake off after lots of natural remedies that were administered by my loving wife. Janice was tired from the trip, but she is doing fine. We do appreciate your prayers for our health.

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

In Christ,

*Tom & Janice Crawford*

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