

The Crawfords

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Dear Pastor Dehnke and folks at Central Baptist Church,

Janice and I send you greetings from Jakarta. The past few weeks have been busy weeks for us here in Jakarta. We have many things to share. Also, we do have some important prayer requests that we need you folks to bring before the Lord.

In mid-April, I decided to seek a new venue for the new work we are starting in South Jakarta. The main reason was the Indonesian service was not growing. During the first weeks of April, we did not have anyone other than my wife and I for the Indonesian services. Sadly, I decided it was time to look for a better venue for our church.

As one of my secondary aims in starting the new work was to ultimately help the Cipulir Baptist church expand their ministry, I first sought out a place near the Cipulir church. A new hotel had just opened in a small mall close by the Cipulir church, so I approached the hotel management about renting a meeting room for a religious service. The hotel responded positively. I then approached Pastor Pri concerning the possibility of opening an Indonesian and English service at the hotel. Pastor Pri enthusiastically accepted the suggestion as an opportunity to expand the ministry of the Cipulir Baptist church. Using the negotiating skills of Brother Kus Dwi, a deacon in the Cipulir church, we soon had a one year contract on a meeting room in the hotel.

The new arrangement for Simply Jesus Baptist church was that the Cipulir Baptist church would move their services to the hotel each Sunday morning. In the evening Cipulir Baptist church would hold regular services in their own building.

The new services started the first Sunday of May with good results. We had good crowds out for both the Indonesian and English service in the morning, and in the evening service we had a man saved! Over the next two weeks the crowds grew with the Lord literally giving us people that were hungry for God's word. Most of the members of the Cipulir Baptist church were enthusiastically inviting new people.

The last week in May, the hotel management informed me that they needed a permission letter from the police for us to continue meeting in the hotel. The request was a bit strange as we had provided the hotel with letters proving the Cipulir church was a fully registered church. The hotel management was firm, without the letter we could not continue having services at the hotel.



The permission problem could not have come at a worse time. The fasting month was drawing to a close and the Indonesian government had declared a holiday for Idul Fitri from the 9th through the 20th of June. Moreover, Janice and I were headed to Batam for the Grace Baptist Schools graduation the first week of June. However, on the 8th of June, I headed off to the government offices in Jakarta to see what could be done.

My efforts to obtain the permission letter for the service in the hotel, quickly became a discovery situation that finally led me to an office in the South Jakarta government called the Form for Peaceful Agreement among Religious Groups (FKUB). The short version of a long story, it looked impossible but in the end I left believing God will work it out!

Here is where we are at now! We are having all services at the Cipulir church until we can get the letters we need! We ask you to help by praying: 1) the Lord will guide me as I transverse the government offices to get the proper letters, and 2) the Lord will continue to grow both services over the next few weeks.

The last of April, I went to West Kalimantan (Borneo) to take part in the ordination of Pastor Serpulus. Pastor Serpulus graduated from our Bible school here in Jakarta. He has started several works in West Kalimantan. He has been a good soul winner and he has continued to serve the Lord through some difficult situations. His church in Tajam, West Kalimantan, called for his ordination while organizing their church. I accompanied Pastor Raso, Serpulus' sending pastor to take part in the ordination.



Janice and I traveled to Batam for the kindergarten graduation of Grace Baptist School. The school is a project of the Batam foundation that is run out of Grace Baptist Church. The graduation went well. It also appears that there will be a good number of families putting their children in our grade school that will start with grade one next year. The required school building is coming along. Please pray



for the financial need for the building. Any help you could give financially would be greatly appreciated at this time. Mark your gift -- Grace Baptist School.

Janice and I are fine. The end of May we attended a mountain retreat with the pastors from Banten for a few days during the fasting month. Over the next few weeks we will be having some visitors. We will have a young American family that feels called to Indonesia as missionaries, and Pastor Arnel Fernandez from the Philippines. Normally we do not have many visitors, but recently the Lord has sent several our way.

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

In Christ,

Tom & Janice Crawford

Received in April \$125,00

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