

29 August 2018

Dear Pastor Grieme and folks at Central Baptist Church,

Janice and I send you greetings from Jakarta. The last couple of months have been a challenging time for our ministry here in Indonesia. However, it has also been a joyous time as God has blessed in both the ministry here in Jakarta and Grace Baptist School in Batam.

The challenge to hold services in the hotel close to the Cipulir Baptist Church has been frustrating. The last week of July, we were able to have a good meeting with the Forum for Peaceful Agreement among Religious Groups where they laid out the necessary steps we needed to take in obtaining permission to use the hotel for religious services. Basically, we need:

- 1) a specific letter from the owner of the building that they did not object to the building being used for religious services.
- 2) Verified signatures from 60 residents near there that they had no problem with us having services.
- 3) Verified signatures of 90 people who attended our services.

Naturally, the item that seemed the easiest has become the major problem. Obtaining a letter from the owner of the mall where the hotel is located has forced us to wait on processing the other requirements. As it has turned out the ownership papers for the mall are now held by a holding company. The actual owner wants the holding company to also sign the permission letter. The manager of the hotel continues to tell me that he will work the problem out and get the letter for us, but he also continues to tell me to be patient!

Our Indonesian and English services have continued each Sunday morning at the Cipulir Baptist Church with good results. A young entrepreneur that the Lord dropped into our lives in an amazing manner, presented himself for baptism and he has become a faithful member of the church. Brother Umar, who has attended our services for several years also presented himself for baptism. Both of





Brother Benny

these men have testimonies that will bring tears to your eyes, and it brought great joy to the church to see them openly profess Jesus Christ.

Since moving our services back to the Cipulir area, Pastor Pri and I have been visiting each Tuesday evening. The results have been good. Just last evening we visited a lady who often attends our services. This family has a store in their small house, so we sat out front in the narrow alleyway in front of their house.



Brother Umar

While most of the men of the community passed by us in response to the call to prayer, I had the opportunity to take the husband through God's plan of salvation. Folks, keep praying that the Lord will continue His blessings on the ministry here in Jakarta.

The Grace Baptist School in Batam has 23 students this semester. The school is well on its way to being certified by the government. It also has new facilities that are sufficient to handle play school through first grade. All of this has come with challenges. Right now one of the challenges is getting the building supply store paid off so we can continue building the facilities that will be needed to add more grades. Pastor Andar has been quite concerned that we not have a bad testimony with the building supply store so he has pushed his church and me to give to pay down the material bill. This last month the owner of the material store asked Pastor Andar to please pay a



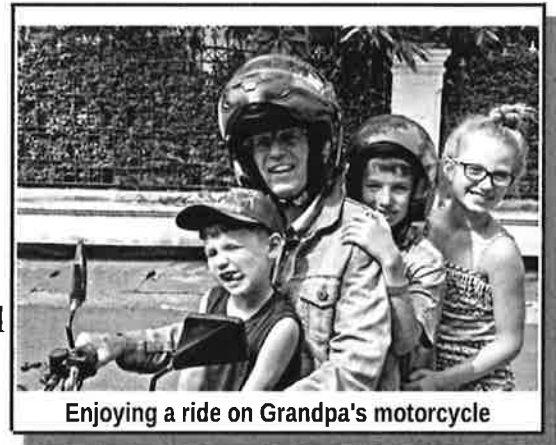
certain amount. As the due date came, we were short of the amount. Pastor Andar took what was gathered and told the owner of the building supply store that he was sorry but that was all that God had provided this month. For whatever reason, the owner of the building supply store thanked Pastor Andar for the payment and calmly told him, "Pastor Andar, I will continue to supply you with whatever credit you need in order to finish the building." When, Pastor Andar told me how the owner of the building supply store had reacted, it worried me,

as I know Pastor Andar will continue building immediately! Later as I thought about it, I was ashamed as I realized that God had touched the store owner's heart. We have a good testimony – we can be trusted because we have a God that can be trusted! We would appreciate it if you would like to have a part and send a special offering for the school. Just mark it *Grace Baptist School – Batam*.

We do want you to pray for some special services that we will be hosting here in Jakarta over the next few months. We have Pastor Ben Abante coming to preach a combined stewardship and missions conference the 10th through the 14th of October. Then in late November the Cipulir Simply Jesus Baptist Church will have their missions conference. Pastor Gerry Nable will come to challenge us to do more for world missions. Can a small church located in a community that is over 90% Muslim, reach their community and the world for Christ? We are working on it! Pray for us.

Our Bible school is open and I am teaching a class on expository sermons. I have eight students and I have really been enjoying the classes. Pray for these students as they work jobs and come to the classes in the evening.

Personally, Janice and I are fine. We had the joy of having our son Samuel and his family visit in late July and early August. We had a good time. We traveled to Pangandaran, West Java, so Sam's children could experience the beach there. It was one of Sam's favorite places when he was growing up in Indonesia. We also spent several days with them in the Malaysian state of Sabah in Borneo. It was a great time. On our return home to Jakarta, Janice came down with a bad virus. Course I gave her all her herbal cures. She is still a bit tired but feeling a lot better now.



We truly appreciate your faithful prayers and financial support.

In Christ,
Tom & Janice

Received in June \$125,00

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