

Dear LINKS friends in West Texas,

We were so delighted to learn that West Texas District is our Links District for these coming two years. Let me tell you a little about us and our work.

Bob grew up in the Philippines where his parents were missionaries for 33 years. After graduating from high school at Faith Academy in Manila and studying one year at the University of the Philippines, he returned to America to continue his schooling at SNU. He and I met when we both joined the Missions Crusaders team.

I, Rosa, grew up in Bethany, Oklahoma. I graduated from SNU with a degree in Piano Performance a year after Bob and I were married; in fact, Bob graduated with his degree in 1969, we began our pastorate, bought our first new car, and were married all in the same month. We pastored in Crescent, Oklahoma for 6 years before going to Indonesia in 1975.

We then served 38 years in Indonesia. Our daughter, Kara, was born while we were still in language school in West Java and our son, Kent, was born after we moved to Central Java.

Kara, also a graduate of SNU, now lives in Austin and works at the University of Texas.

Kent and his wife, Aimee, also graduates of SNU, live in Bartow, Florida and have given us 4 beautiful grandchildren: Connelley, age 13, Campbell, age 11, and twin boys, Coleson and Collier, 9 years old. Kent works in IT with FedEx and Aimee is pastor of the home church that meets each week in their home.

In Indonesia, we lived and taught on our Bible College campus on

the outskirts of Yogyakarta. Bob taught theology, church history, preaching and holiness. I taught English and music which included liturgy and worship, choir, keyboard, and private piano lessons.

Most Indonesians are of the Muslim religion, and we were under quite strict restrictions as to what we were allowed to do in the way of evangelism. However, the Lord has greatly blessed the Church of the Nazarene in Indonesia. We first entered the country in 1973, and at the time we left, there were over 100 churches and preaching points, being pastored by about 80 ministers.

We were located very close to the equator, so definitely in a tropical climate. There are two seasons - rainy and dry.

The Indonesian people are dark skinned, a God-given protection against the sun. Their noses are rather flat and they called us the 'long-nosed' people. They are a very friendly people, always smiling and polite, much more aware of relationships and pleasing each other than we foreigners are.

We lived at the foot of Mt Merapi, labeled the world's most active volcano, and could see it from our front yard. They call Indonesia the 'Ring of Fire' because of the many volcanoes and extensive fault line that blanket this archipelago of 13,000 islands.

Our retirement from Indonesia came in November of 2012. We have settled back home in Bethany, Ok and now find ourselves very busy and fulfilled again. Bob is teaching at three local universities, and substitutes in high school as often as he can. I have a class of 28 piano students who keep me busy at this time of the year with contests and recital coming up. I also play for two churches every weekend besides attending services at Bethany First Nazarene.

We look forward to getting to know all of you better during these coming two years and pray God's riches blessings on you and your congregations.

In Him,

Bob and Rosa McCroskey

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