

The Body of Christ

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Ministry under the leadership of the Holy Way Evangelical Church, Indonesia

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Medan Trip

“You need to see what the Lord is doing in Pematang Siantar.”(North Sumatra)” Tiurlyn (wife of Cornelius Darto (Arch Bishop of the Holy Way Church in Indonesia). The work has two dioceses now, Java and Papua. Darto said: “We will make arrangements for your family to go.”

A few days later we were met at the airport by Rachael Meytie Hermon and Mrs. Lin, together we boarded Garuda after a chat with Andrew Hermon Parlindungan while Judah and Fania grabbed a quick bite of Chicken Nuggets, since they could not eat the Javanese Soto where flies were buzzing around in Sepanjang, near Surabaya.



The new airport in Medan was state of the art; the road leaving the airport matched it with four lanes and lights. Pastor Peggy is an associate of the Reverend Eddy Prayitno (graduate of the LBTC who went on to become the Regional Pastor for North Sumatra, six churches in Pematang Siantar, three in Medan (Indonesians third largest city). Later at lunch on Sunday Pastor Eddy told me he was building a church building to be finished in 3 years that seats 15,000.

Our bags were loaded into a new High Ace Toyota Van that carries 16 and shuttled off through the night on a one and a half hour trip, stopping for Pastor Peggy to pick up some Kwee Tiau (claimed to be the best fried noodles), finally we pulled up in front of the new Swiss Bell Hotel of Medan which would be our home for the next two days while we visited and saw our own Holy Way Church Reverend Joshua Isnianto’s church.

The room at four star prices and five star feel provided us with a two bedroom suite, being fully booked we wound up in one where the previous occupants smoked covered up by air freshener. The linen crisp with black granite bathrooms, plenty of hot water for a town where the pastor was fasting and praying for rain to fill some of the wells running dry for church members. It was raining the night we got into town so Pastor Peggy was the only one to get down for the warm noodles.

Rachael very efficiently called us for breakfast to be ready for the day’s tour. Sumptuous European and Indonesian breakfast buffet with a cup of incredible coffee.

Isnianto and his wife a former Business Analyst soon joined us in the Lobby and shuttled us in their Mitsubishi Kuda to their home. The Medan Holy Way Church was just a short trip away off of a

boulevard. The owner of the church building they currently were leasing (they only paid for the pastors 3 bedroom quarters, the building was free) had just died. Prior to death his wife and he had prepared at least 3 church buildings, one above their house leased by another denomination and one in the village. Yet another denomination had built a church building right across from the Holy Way Church's leased building. The auditorium they ended up with was a good size, but in need of some maintenance. They had not paid the rent asking the owner for mercy for them to purchase bags of cement, to cover up rebar, to avoid being stolen by thieves. The rent for a year is \$2,500.00.

Two blocks further up the road and also to the right was the new site. Behind tin wall pulling in the car with a little mud from the night's rain was a foundation with some parts missing. Would the wall crack when built? Hopefully not, Isnianto stayed behind to oversee the work and could not make it to leadership counsel meeting later in Lawang.

Pematang Siantar, Tapanuli

Deep in the heart of Northern Sumatra, passing several extra large trucks, the High Ace accompanied with Pastor Peggy and his wife and son. His wife, a story in itself, because her family had put him on a hit list because she was extremely rich and they did not want her who was working in business to marry a pastor, however after she got sick and was in a comma, she called his name. He came and prayed with her with the family blessings and she became better, the family even paid for the wedding. Peggy liked designer clothes as a young man but now says he has learned to shop at second shops even with his wife and son. They took us to a night stand in Medan after a light Pangsit Dinner to enjoy varieties of Durian tastes like custard but have a rich aroma. Three hours later we pulled up at the Body of Christ Kids School. The building had cost \$89,000 very sturdy high ceilinged house. A construction project to rehab classrooms for \$9,000 had enabled them with some assistance from the archdiocese office (because evidently when you are promised nine thousand you actually only e fifty seven. This project created four classrooms. Sapadia hotel where I was told to stay served breakfast in the morning, the old school bus (1980) could not pick us up so we took the Becak a side car for two with a pre WW2 BSA motorcycle.

Unbelievable to see a room filled with 150 students of a small size singing in English and Indonesian, communicating in both languages as well.

Lunch with the 7 Pastors of the Bethel Christian Church (GBI)

After leading Sunday worship we prayed for people especially adults to be better mentors. Some of them wound up on the floor in the presence of God praying. It was very peaceful. Here was where we spent Sunday afternoon with the Reverend Eddy Prayitno and Intan his wife who was ministering to their seven churches. Eddy and Intan had both graduated from ours.

Holy Way Foundation Bible Training Center, Pematang Siantar

While up the road from there a friend also sent to Pematang Siantar at the same time as Eddy was running a Bible Training Center. Our guide told us that he had graduated close to 2000 people in his period. He had a spacious school. We chatted at great lengths and finally prayed with the students.

Leadership Meeting, Lawang

The Holy Way Church is now in 19 provinces of the 27 or so Indonesia has and has 44 parishes in Papua alone. On August 25th as planned through the 27th most all of these leaders and their associates converged on the cool climate of the Lawang Bible Training Center, where most all of them graduated of course other than those graduating from the PUSLATAL (Sangir Bible Training Center), MBTC (Manado Bible Training Center and others). I actually found that that the Holy Way Foundation in Pematang Siantar has a Bible Training Center graduating at least 17 students a year. The Lawang Bible Training Center is currently training 36 students. Each is very gifted in running the retreat programs. Students, staff wives and congregation wives all take turn on a preset schedule to process food (peeling carrots, onions) final cooking, or in delivery. Others are responsible for making beds, scheduling who resides in what room. Others spend time decorating some of the best table clothes.

For a fee the literature or campus store will also provide for laundry, neatly pressed in a package at the end of two days. (It takes longer to dry in the colder climate and higher altitude)

Bali Family Vacation

Through the day and night we drove this six cylinder two wheel drive Toyota Van dodging motorcycle passing trucks, busses at times often with oncoming traffic on the outskirts of Surabaya, Indonesia's second largest City. Finally passing the interesting ports of Pasuruan, a friend, Paul had taken pictures of and the prosperous Probolinggo town and county the size of York. We stopped for lunch near Surabaya for Lontong Balap, a form of rice cakes in banana leaves, in a coconut flavored broth with chicken. Later at night across from a dentist office we purchased lamb and chicken sate and rice, kabobs.

Passing the Situbondo town where at least 9 Christian churches were destroyed by mobs. No sign of rebuild. The only thing remotely representing Christianity was a hospital named Elisabeth, owned by the sugar plantation.

Passing by the bright lights of East Java's twin clean coal powered electricity plants complete with its own port for efficiently unloading and after driving through the scary 20 kilometer of Banyuwangi forest, we drove unto the waiting Ferry just in time for the ramp to be closed and departure.

In Bali I drove through the night on a hot mixed road, a nice break, up the windy road all the way to the outskirts of Tabanan at 3 am. Driving down a very steep driveway we found two bedrooms paid by the hour ending up being \$14 for the two. Although the shower was out of a plastic bucket the double bed was great for an early start. After a sumptuous Javanese Breakfast of rice, eggs, vegetables, chicken, we arrived with the kind escort of a motorcycle taxi to the area off of Cocolo Minoto where Stacy stayed in Denpasar. Showing us the mattresses we would call home she quickly escorted us to the very reasonable places for lunch. We ate for \$6 for the seven of us. Judah as usual, had 3 helpings of meatball soup, bakso. We walked across the street to see where Stacy enjoys buying lace and textiles for her projects as a designer. Several other foreign designers were there one taking pictures with her phone of the lace for ideas.

Driving through the streets somehow we arrived at a resort a friend her husband and family owned. Fania immediately jumped in the pool with her cousin while Stacy and I investigated if Ida was there; turns out she was on her way back from a trip to Lawang and Madiun. Later when we visited Lies her sister we found their old family home surrounded by fruit trees. The oldest sibling in Madiun even had more with 4 hectares of every fruit tree imaginable. All colors of Durian and Meeting rooms.

Ida was not there yet Charisma told us, and later when Stacy was treating us to McDonalds, she must have arrived at 8:32 pm. By then we were helping Jecklin's Dad shop for Levi's. Ace hardware was big there similar to a Lowes back home without the lumber and sheetrock and pipe.

While Stacy hung out on the beach and also helped with catching up with Ida overlooking the surf, Jecklin, her dad, Nelson, Fania again had the time of their life swimming in the pool. The resort had a new rimless pool looked infinite and also a pool bar that seemed a little out for a family resort but perhaps necessary to cater to all segments. Ida sent her greetings to David and Juliana also Grace.

After seeing the affluence Kuta had with continuous shops, coffee shops, and more we wound up at a Javanese food court with any imaginable food. Stacy's neighbor even had a shop there. I went for Shu May /Batagor, kind of dumplings on rice cakes with peanut and soy sauce.

Bali Bible Training Center

Across from the Ford Dealer in Denpasar Bali, up a smaller road from Ratna Street passing by some construction material you drive into a center with Auditorium, Kitchen, and Prayer Facilities. In the courtyard are many rental cars for rent to the many areas tourists. Next door is a former motel facility used also to house senior saints.

This center run by Mr. Kasnadi has a rental cost of \$25,000 every 10 years. Thanks to a gift of \$7,000 from the treasurer of the Holy Way archives, the Scruttons of Australia together with efforts from the local body of Christ they were able to pay \$13,000. The owner was kind enough to accept this partial payment expecting the rest in the next few months.

In the meantime a guest room is being built as well as one on one Bible Training is going on. The Training is urgently needed as they open new posts in Tabanan and Singaraja and more as the Lord Prospers.

Bible Camp

Nineteen church denominations were represented here, as well as members of the Holy Way Churches. Opening night Mrs. Molindo a long time resident of Lawang, who during the attempted communist coup, stayed at the first site of the Training Center, now the auditorium to save it from being taken by the government. Also present was the Mulyono family from Malang long supporters of the work. Worship going up in the presence of the Lord, culminated with Darto speaking and soon some were prostrate in the presence of the Lord. The following day after worship Horman from Manado spoke about the use of the ministry gifts. Each morning we begin worship at 3:45 am just before the Muslim worship. Worship is singing in the gifts of tongues, by the Holy Spirit

Each day after prayer, those present walked around the first circle. We passed the former house of Suratno, once family elders at the local Protestant church.

Malang Holy Way Church

Mr. Adri together with the minister John surprisingly appeared just the day of elections of new officers for the Synod in Lawang. He said we were to share at the Bible Study that evening. John showed up later with a great gift evidently the tithe of Mr. Adri's family. One by one member came. Many had converted from Buddha, one a former wearer of the prayer scarf from a cousin religion. A great number

were all converts by Roy a former Suzuki dealer owner, who ten years ago married a Dentist that we attended at a large new hotel. I was told he used to use synthetic drugs but was freed under the ministry of this Malang Church. Sis, my former 2nd grade classmate, who claimed I led to the Lord by giving him a tract about The Kingdom of God was there. He had moved away to be with his grandparents in Malang. He claimed my dad; taking advantage of the relationships had shared with the teachers, many of them coming to the Lord.

After Chit chat, we went upstairs to the meeting room for Bible study I gave about the differences of Sword and Spear in the Biblical references. Fania lead us in singing afterwards singing Alleluia, Alleluia standing up and sitting. Was a fun night and sampled some of Mr. Adri's coffee and homegrown bananas. Afterwards we all ate together having a tour of the Sunday school room, kitchen, single staff and families, and courtyard for parking.

Building Maintenance in Lawang

The Lawang Bible Training Center has boy's dorm, girl's dorm, guest rooms, bathrooms, staff housing, prayer room, auditorium, synod office, treasurer's office. However cracks appear in the cement needing silicon, some mold above the air conditioners. The roof above the guest rooms, cafeteria, and kitchen area made of cement needs new waterproof paint.

East Borneo Pastor's House and Church Need

Priyanto and Ester gave up a ministry in Madiun, to return to a very difficult place of ministry in Eastern Borneo near Muara Mujan. To get telephone reception they have to climb on a tall mountain. Ester's entrée on Face book was done at her daughter's house in Semarang.

This family at the point of their despair was reminded like the prophet of old Elisha that 7000 people has not bowed their knees to Baal.

Pri and Ester now live in a rented house. They have been building a more permanent home on a piece of land they had, however during a storms the wall they built blew over.

Priyanto was unable to attend the leadership meeting in Lawang, because besides ministering, they were also raising chicken to supplement ministry. Often when they cook, since the rented house is also where they hold church, members will open up their food display (you put food cooked daily under a large strainers like to keep flies out, since no refrigerator is available) in the middle of their dining room, and help themselves.

Board Meeting and Responsible Management of Resources Needed

Bealeton Virginia

Herry Stube and Dolly were the last managers for the Holy Way in Bealton, Virginia. They live in a house given for the director of the Holy Way and receive a small stipend of \$13,000 or so for being the executive director. Under his management is a retreat center that houses 15 to 30 people. A stall building with an apartment upstairs that Becky and Kim once stayed in. In the outer ring of the property is a building which comfortably house 160 people but needs a \$12,000 septic system.

Also available to him was a Retreat center in Moravian Falls, North Carolina, which Fr, Mike and Linda Chapman stayed. This building had cost the donator \$500 because of adjustments for meeting local building permits. However, after constructing it and ministering to Hispanics effectively, father Mike and Linda went to serve God in Peru as Bishop.

All projects including the 28 pieces of 15 acres of land were to be used only by the Holy Way, another organization had asked him for the site in North Carolina, which he turned down. However when Mike left, he forgot to transition the work back to the Holy Way (Church or Incorporated) so the site is being used outside of the plan by an unknown organization.

The original organization in Montana stated that announcements were to be sent out to contributors of \$5 or more. However when meetings were held in Bealeton, no invitation was forwarded to the Stube family, its founding family as well as members. The last known meeting was in 2004 ten years.

Pray for reorganization; pray that this family could run it with any remaining interested members. Or pray for new openness and cooperation.