

Indonesia November 2005

The CCM teams in Sydney and London have been faithfully mailing out Bible Basics literature to Indonesia over the years in response to internet work, and a number of good contacts have developed amongst the 2000 or so people who have received literature here. They are scattered throughout this huge archipelago of islands which contains about 230 million people, from the troubled Aceh area through Kalimantan [Borneo] to West Papua- not so far from Darwin, northern Australia! The vast majority of this huge population are fundamentalist Moslems. In recent times there has been an escalation of persecution of Christians, with many meeting places burnt down and Christians attacked. This is witnessed on many web sites, and you can read more details below. There are strict laws in Indonesia about not seeking to persuade others to change their religion, especially Moslems, and we have sought to honour these in our approach. We came into contact with a house group led by TONI, and over the years they have studied the Bible Basics literature and it was a delight to spend time with them and baptize those of them who are ready. They are mainly based around Toni's family and neighbours. We're therefore very pleased to announce the baptisms of TONI and his wife KAREN , and also FEBRIUA, EVI, RAMA, HARYO, RYAN, SHEILA and AGNES.



Baptisms of Br Toni's family, including his elderly grandmother, who gave a wonderful confession of her faith.

They live a very difficult existence, with limited social and employment rights due to being in the non-Moslem minority. Some of the group are in significant poverty because of this. Again and again, we see that against all odds the simple power of the true Gospel motivates people to rise up to the challenge of God's call, and it falls to us to do what we can to support them. We gave them some significant welfare support, and any who would like to contribute towards their needs are welcome.

The house group include some who know English, and they are busily going about the translation of Bible Basics to Indonesian. Introducing Bible Basics and What Is The Gospel? are already in Indonesian.

It was a pleasure to finally meet up with HARLEY, who's been in touch with us for some years and has benefitted from personal correspondence with br Sam Bradley in Sydney. Harley is a very studious person who's been through many religions and Christian denominations, from Pentecostals to Islam to JWs to Adventists. He's addicted himself to careful Bible study, is very clear about the error of the trinity as a result of his researches, and has an especial interest in Bible prophecy. He's worked out a detailed timeline of significant historical events as they affect Israel, sellotaping together 9 A4 pages, with the various dates and events. He then fits various Biblical time periods into the scheme, e.g. the 1260 days, 1290 days, 490 years etc, and is eagerly hoping that the Lord Jesus will return soon. We very much enjoyed discussing these things with our brother and had many interesting possibilities opened up to us. It was again a pure pleasure to baptize such a diligent Bible student. He is in a very hostile environment, but has some contacts he is working on who hopefully might be baptized when Brethren Sam Bradley and Mark Gilbert make their planned follow trip, God willing.



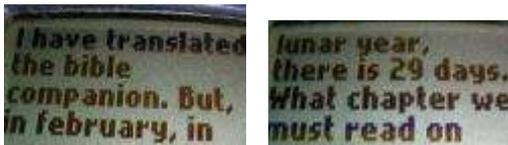
Bro Harley with his home-made time line and calculation of various dates for the ending of Israel's tribulation

Whilst together with our brother, there was quite some disturbance relating to the ending of the Moslem Ramadan holiday period. Some traditionally Christian villages were attacked, and three teenage Christian schoolgirls were beheaded by Moslem radicals. This happened about 200 km. from where we were, and was an attempt to rekindle the Moslem-Christian violence that resulted in riots a few years ago that left over 2000 dead.



The violence was headline news in local newspapers

Our brother has already translated the Bible Companion into Indonesian straight after his baptism, and sent some text messages with an interesting observation about it:



Text messages from Br Harley after translating the Bible Companion

Visits were made to a total of 4 islands, the highlight being work in West Papua, or Irian Jaya. This is one of the last frontiers of the planet, covered in dense forests with little infrastructure, with some of the most culturally insulated tribes on earth living there. It was an honour to be able to take the true Gospel there. Our most promising contact there only very occasionally checks email, had no telephone, and his mailing address was c/o someone else. For about a year now we had been discussing with him about visiting and baptizing him, but he finds it hard to get to email and we'd not heard for a few weeks before going. We decided to go in faith anyway, which involved a journey involving 3 changes of small aircraft. We booked tickets, with no idea how we'd find him. Just as we were boarding the first aircraft, the mobile rang. Max had received our mail and 'just thought' he'd try giving us a call. We told him we were just boarding a plane to come to him! He made great effort to travel and meet us at the air strip, we were both just laughing and praising God about it for the whole time we were together. Truly God meant it to be. It was a wonderful experience to baptize MAX into Christ. Our brother has limited spoken English but is clearly a wonderful person and a vital entrance to this isolated area. We discussed with him the possibility of future trips accompanying him to various areas where he has local contacts in order to spread the knowledge of Christ to them. This is absolutely frontier work, making Christ known to those who truly have not heard, and the next visit, resources permitting, has great potential to get in to this remote and fascinating area.



Max, probably our most isolated brother anywhere on earth



Max explaining where the airstrips are located to access some of the communities he knows and once visited whilst working for a local NGO spreading HIV awareness to the villagers

So we commit our new brothers and sisters to prayer, looking forward to more growth in this far flung chain of islands.

We were able to use the Dutch and English versions of our newly produced tract 'An appeal to Roman Catholics', with encouraging response from those who read it- any interested can view it at www.carelinks.net/Dutch.html

With love from your brothers and sisters of the CCM