

Bali, Indonesia

June 2009



-Sunrise in Bali June 18

35 hours of planes, trains and automobiles and Nancy & I are here in Nusa Dua, Indonesia. That 12 hour leg from Sweden to Kuala Lumpur is a big one. We flew south of Moscow; over Kandahar; across the Swat valley in Pakistan; flew over India to Malaysia, fortunately without stopping.

Lest you feel sorry for us, Bali ranks among the most beautiful places on earth. It is one of the 1000's of Indonesian Islands and an island too, because the Hindu culture and religion is the last vestige of that culture in the largest Muslim country in the world.

Nancy was able to accompany me on this trip. That in itself is an amazing blessing. I travelled dozens of times to Asia in the 1980's where Nancy was left at home in California to look after the kids. Southeast Asia was a regular 'run' for me. I lost count of my visits to Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia somewhere after 40 visits. My long-suffering wife blessed me by allowing me to be a part of the ministry here. Despite being left behind, she always said "it is nice to see your back", ...although it would have been more appropriate to say it when I was coming home 😊

One of the purposes of this trip is to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Indonesia. I met Dr. Chris Marantika more than 30 years ago at Dallas Theological Seminary in Texas. Partners International supported his vision of 1:1:1 (one church in one village in one generation) from the beginning. It has been my privilege to witness an amazing movement of God in this nation the last 30 years. There are now more than 3,500 students attending

some 33 ETSI institutions scattered over the Indonesian archipelago. Close to 4000 churches attribute their existence to the direct witness of these students. The movement is just beginning.

We will attend the 30th celebrations but we are also meeting leaders of new organizations in start-up mode. These seminaries are located 2 or 3 of the least reached areas of Indonesia. We fly to Jogjakarta, Java and to Lombok (Google Earth markers attached). Lombok is a strongly Muslim area that does not really welcome Christian witness. They have some terrific leaders who want to enter into partnership with PI Canada.

Java has 130 million people stuffed into an area that would fit between Windsor and Montreal for you Canadian readers. We flew over a string of active volcanoes that form the spine of the island from West to East.

Bali is, unfortunately, a too brief stopover to catch our breath and acclimatize to a 12 hour time zone change. We are on the other side of the globe from Canada. Tomorrow we fly to Jogjakarta. Next Tuesday we are on our way to Lombok. Our schedule has us in Hong Kong and China from June 27th. That may change if my cold hangs on. China is quarantining anyone with flu-like symptoms. A week in a hotel in Kunming would not only be expensive, but very boring.

Phil



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