

Dr. Chris Marantika and his wife Saria met Nancy and I at the airport today in Jogjakarta, East Java. We felt pretty special as Dr. Chris is a busy guy with a huge organization to run and conference starting today with some 1500 people attending. It is a privilege to know men and women like this.

He was born on a tiny island in the southern seas, in a Muslim nation among one of the smaller ethnic groups, the Moluccans of Indonesia. The family was relocated from their island paradise because it was so tectonically unstable. If you look at the attached Google Earth link, you will see his island and about one third of it is missing since the time Chris harvested bananas and oranges and went fishing with his father.

Dr. Chris has told me that he will be conveying an honour on me tomorrow, an honorary Doctorate degree from the Seminary to be specific. (It used to be that I could not even spell doctorate, now I am one!) My Junior- High teachers, may they rest in peace, are smacking their foreheads wondering how the world has become such a perverse place! My accomplishment for such a great honour..? Sending O.P.M.(Other People's Money) from the beginning of his vision for Indonesia in 1978. The organization started with just Dr. Chris and his wife and son. We supported them at \$250.00 per month with his earned doctorate degree from Dallas Theological Seminary in Texas 30 years ago. ETSI now has almost 4000 students enrolled with 31 campuses across Indonesia and an accredited university of 2000 students.

Today is June 22. The graduation is done and I am now known officially as Dr. Phil. Since the first Dr. Phil already exists, I will be Dr. Phil #2.

They have a great bunch of people here at the seminary. All these men and women I have known for 30 years are now leaders of incredible competence. The time of needing assistance from the



West is coming to an end. There are no spiritual gifts lacking here. Leaders still value partnership and friendship in the ministry. They certainly know how to make people feel appreciated and honoured.

Nancy was able to see how events unfold in these contexts. We spent many hours sitting today, not easy with a badly congested head. The meetings started at 10:00 a.m. and continued until 9:00 p.m. in the evening. We left about 2 hours early. The music was amazing. Indonesian worship music is beautiful and unique. Twice during the day someone comes and whispers in my ear “they would like you to share as soon as the current speaker finishes.” No time suggested and no prior warning. You have to stand up and speak to over 1000 highly educated people.

Indonesians are incredibly warm, hospitable people. We are cared for moment by moment. It will be difficult to say goodbye

Phil & Nancy

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