

Singapore - Manado & Ambon, Indonesia

June 17

The itinerary has taken us to 3 cities in 2 countries over the last 72 hours. We have a short hour in the Ambon airport to write this report.

We survived an earthquake last night in the restaurant. A series of quakes hit the area of northern Indonesia. There was a sharp jolt, and the building was moving. I was up and heading for the door with a few other Indonesians scattering. (I am not sure they running to get out of my way or because of the quake). There was no damage done but a few miles down the road several were killed in a rock slide.

This visit has taken us to some exotic areas. We are actually visiting areas where ministry is a little 'weaker', struggling or needs a boost to get it to the next level. We try to find out what is holding them back, whether it is leadership structure, communication tools, finances etc. We need to see the potential for the work to be moving into frontiers where few can go and become a multiplying and transforming force. Partners International will then do whatever necessary to see goals reached.

Manado is a beautiful, clean city by many standards. It is famous for some of the best scuba diving in the world. Unfortunately, we will not have time to sample that. The city has a majority Christian population and churches are evident everywhere. The transforming impact of the Christian gospel is also evident and yet, with that comes a deadness in some of the churches. The Bible College we helped initiate through the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Indonesia (ETSI) is focussed on keeping the evangelical fires alive.



Revlie and Davila, Seminary leaders

Manado is also the place where they eat dog. (plug your ears Buffy)

It was many years ago that I was first coerced into trying dog meat in Manado, Indonesia. Traveling with John Brans, I thought it would be a good experience for him. He was a good sport and ate what was

offered. We have been monitoring him to see if there have been any behavioural changes. He is still greeting people normally but he does tend to run ahead when I yell 'squirrel'

There are few direct flights from island to island. Our flights took us through Ujjang Pandang, Makassar before arriving in Ambon. John is learning some new perspectives in queuing. Boarding a plane more closely resembles 'Red Rover Red Rover' than anything we experience in North America. Passengers board from the front and rear of the plane and they ensure the front passengers climb the rear stairs and vice versa.

We plan to be in Samarinda, Kalimantan (Borneo) tonight.

In His service

Phil Dempster



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