

#### Indonesia #4 Samarinda and Balikpapan

I am not made for Asia. After speaking at a church meeting in a hotel on Sunday morning, we were taken to lunch by the leadership team. The tables were made of glass, and despite what Emily Post taught me, I put my elbows on the table. The table snapped in two with large shards of glass in my lap. The hotel manager paid me a visit and was very solicitous. I think they were afraid I would sue.

An aluminum chair at my host's home fared no better. When it exploded and collapsed after I sat down, he said "made in China" and smiled.



I was asked to speak at a large Presbyterian church in Balikpapan. Most of the attendees were Chinese. The church was pastored by a graduate of the ETSI (Dr. Chris Marantika) seminary. It was good to share with these wonderful folk and see the changes that are happening daily in the Indonesian churches. Often you do not see these changes when living daily in the same context. I shared and showed pictures of the courage of the Pakistan believers who have been shot at, bombed and endlessly persecuted for their faith. The Indonesians took courage and recognized their situation is not as dire, even though it is dangerous.

The fresh fish is amazing in Kalimantan. We were taken to a high end, seafood restaurant where we could pick our fish 'live' and have it brought to our table within minutes. We were not allowed to pay for anything.

One of the church members invited us to stay at their home. I much prefer staying in homes that the usual hotel fare. It allows you to get to know people and make great friends. This couple dedicated 10% of their home to accommodate ministry visitors. Little did I know that 10% of their home was larger than my home in Canada! It was an incredible place, all glass and stainless steel right on the ocean. We estimated it was more than 20,000 sq feet. The entire 3 floors of the house was inlaid marble. The bedroom was close to 1000 sq feet.



I must apologize to Peter MacMillan and Rick McElroy at this point. We literally slept on boards on the trip to Kalimantan with you 3 years ago ! The place has developed quite a bit since then ☺

The graduation was inspiring at the Dayak college. Korean churches have helped to re-build some classrooms. A German evangelical group has built a quality men's dormitory. There are projects all over the campus that are making the ministry self-sustaining with livestock and farming feeding the student body.

Graduates are making a big difference in the primitive, up-river areas with churches established, literacy taught and villages transformed. It is happening quickly and just in time as the area is opening up daily for oil and mineral exploration.

These are wonderful people to be with. We continued to travel with Rev. Lieow. He is known in the 'Ghost Buster' even in Cambodia. He certainly knew how to communicate with the animistic Dayak people.



John Brans and I spent one day in Bali and we were re-charged and ready for Cambodia.