

Bushbury Parish Visits Indonesia Java Peninsula and West Timor February 2017

Once more at the invitation of our friends the Dean of Indonesia, Rev Timothy Chong and the Assistant Dean of Indonesia, Rev Yopie Buyung, a Team of 5 likely lads travelled from Bushbury Parish to the Java Peninsula. Here is the Team taken by the railway line as we were making a quick exit from Jakarta: Steve, Rev Graham, Ian, Rev Ian and Richard.



We were in South East Asia for just 8 days from Thurs 9th to Friday 17th February. However, we were able to pack in a lot of travelling and ministry during that time.



We were delivering a teaching series on 1 Peter, which he wrote in a time of persecution, and so related well in the context of the interfaith tensions in Indonesia. Our first stop was 4 days in Jakarta, where we taught at the bible school next to All Saints, the oldest Anglican Church there (pictured left, with some of the pastors).

Due to political and interfaith tension we had to quickly change our travel plans and leave in haste after a moving time of teaching, prayer and worship. We greatly valued the prayers of Bushbury Parish churches with who we were in regular contact via WhatsApp. We hoped our WhatsApp pictures at 2am GMT didn't communicate too much information as we found ourselves in the middle of thousands of protesters!

We then travelled south by train for three days in Bandung. Here we were invited to minister to the 3 Anglican churches (St Peter's, St Paul's, and St John's), and to teach in their theological college.



Ian sharing at St Peter's (left)

Here with leaders at St Peter's (right) – on Rev Ian's birthday (first of several birthday cakes in hand!)



Steve teaching at the theology college.



Rev Graham & Ian testing if the volcanic water passed Western health and safety standards (on a day of R & R)

Finally, with only 2 days left before our return flight from Jakarta, we embarked on an unscheduled but exciting trip to visit a church plant in West Timor. 14 hours later, after catching two planes and a long drive through the middle of West Timor on one of the very few internal roads, we arrived to stay at Soe. Here we took part in a simple service, and stood in prayer with a humble missionary couple who had come from Singapore with their young children, including a very disabled son, in order to establish a Christian ministry by planting several Anglican churches. We were challenged by their clear expectation to see folk come to faith and have their lives transformed.



The church: a converted garage in Niki Niki village



Rev Graham preaching and Pastor Yopie interpreting

The scarves the team are wearing in this photograph were presented to us by the head man of the village, of which we became 'honorary members'



After celebrating Holy Communion we spent a wonderful time of ministry for the sick of the village, the Lord blessed us mightily! Later that day we drove to the edge of the jungle to the piece of land to be prayed for. The rain suddenly stopped; we got out for a time of prayer and worship,



reading Psalm 85 which we had received from the Lord in our prayer preparation for the visit. *Faithfulness springs forth from the earth and righteousness looks down from heaven; the Lord will indeed give what is good and our land will yield its harvest; righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.* (Ps 85:11-13). At that moment, out of the blue a lorry came by with **'Amazing! Nothing Impossible!'** written on the windscreen....

It was most interesting to observe that not only did we sense the Lord use the gifts that we could offer for the encouragement of our brothers and sisters in Indonesia, but we also experienced excellent fellowship amongst ourselves as a team as we rubbed shoulders in many situations.

We returned to Kupang to catch a flight early next morning for our 36 hour journey home. The whole experience was humbling, a real privilege to visit our Christian brothers and sisters to support and encourage them as they struggle to grow facing hostility in an environment where more than 90% of the population is Muslim. We continue to trust in the Lord as we look forward for further opportunities to serve.