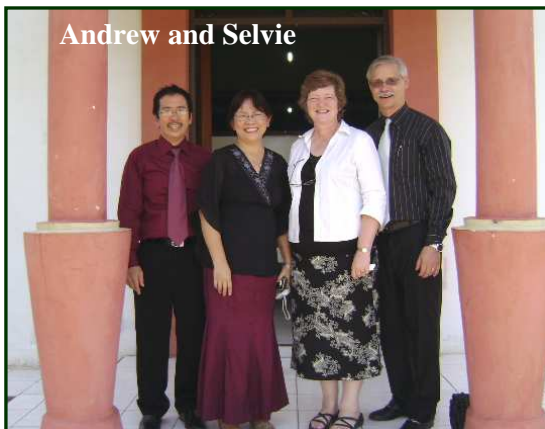


New Friends yet Old Friends

On our recent ministry trip to Manado, North Sulawesi, we had a chance to meet friends who were in some way new, but with whom CBM's relationship also goes a long way back – “good old...and getting better with time.” The only places you may ever have heard us talk about are Pontianak and STK (Kalimantan Theological Seminary). So some of you may think that Kalimantan is the only place where CBM has ever worked in Indonesia. Actually, CBM's ministry of leadership development and joint pioneer outreach in Indonesia began in North Sulawesi, where Frank and Jane Byrne and Malcolm and Patty Card were instrumental in establishing the KGBI's first seminary – the Indonesian Theological Seminary (STI). Last week I (Bill) had a chance to go back to teach at STI. The whole trip turned into a wonderful adventure of meeting new, yet old friends.

We began our trip by stopping in on Dennis and Janet Kirkley, former CBM Global Field Staff (GFS) in West Kalimantan. They are both teaching at a private university (UPH) near Jakarta. They gave us a tour of their first-class facilities and I had a chance to speak to Dennis' students. For the most part, though, we just enjoyed talking till all hours of the night (which for us “old” folks wasn't all that late).



Andrew and Selvie

Then we were off to Manado (three hour flight), where our first priority was to proceed on to Tumani (three hours by car) to visit our old friends, Andrew and Selvie. Janice had worked closely with Selvie in the music ministry at STK for seven years. Andrew and Selvie took a pastorate in Tumani while we were away on our last home assignment. Bill preached in their church on Sunday morning and headed back to Manado to begin teaching at STI on Monday morning.



Janice stayed in Tumani four more nights, spoke at a women's meeting as well as a midweek family service, and enjoyed spending as much time as possible with one of her closest friends.



At STI I (Bill) was in for a bit of a surprise. I learned that I was supposed to teach for 30 hours when I thought I'd be teaching for 15 – so, being able to draw on past teaching and pastoral experience proved very helpful. I was also surprised to have a number of pastors older than myself in the class. One pastor, Johnny Ronga, had actually been a KGBI missionary in West Kalimantan, starting in 1976—long before we got there in 2000—so he



was a new, yet old friend. Frank and Malcolm had been involved in his orientation before coming to West Kalimantan. I was surprised at how vibrant the class discussion was. With so many pastors in the class, theological debate could break out at the drop of a hat, but once I'd established control, we had a great time.



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I was surprised at how appreciative everyone was for CBM's past involvement in North Sulawesi. They could recite every detail of who had served there and what they had contributed. They thanked CBM for water, electricity, and staff homes on the STI campus. Dickey Palandeng, the KGBI General Secretary, noted that his education had been sponsored by CBM. Ferry Paoki, the STI Principal, had been a student of Frank and Malcolm. They all seemed to look back on the days of CBM involvement in North Sulawesi as a kind of a Golden Age of mission and theological education in the KGBI.

So, all in all, it was a very affirming trip. We made new friends, strengthened old friendships, and learned a lot about the history of CBM's work in Indonesia. Thank you all for praying for us during the trip. We were blessed and encouraged by what God has done, is doing, and by the potential that exists for future ministry.

Praise & Prayer:

- Praise:**
- 1) We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary on March 2nd, in modest fashion. We are planning a bigger celebration when Jonathan and Marigan are here in May.
 - 2) For a very affirming ministry trip to Manado and for all of your prayer support along the way.
 - 3) Jonathan and Marigan arrive April 28th for a month-long visit.

- Pray:**
- 1) For upcoming visits by guest lecturers.
 - a. Dr. Dieter Mulitze and his wife Ellen will teach a course on healing prayer from April 19th till the 23rd. Pray that people's hearts and lives will be touched—and healed.
 - b. Dr. Leslie McCurdy will teach on Character Formation May 10-14.
 - 2) Pray for the STI students as they complete their assignment of developing a proposal for mobilizing their church members for a new ministry—beginning with a vision and ending with the reality. Due April 12th.
 - 3) Pray for our STK students as they balance ministry and studies. Many could tend to get sick by the end of the semester. Pray for their health. Pray for a special week of ministry planned for April 1-5. Students go out in groups to remote villages during this time. Bill will supervise one of these groups.
 - 4) Pray for the KGBI as it prepares for the 2010 Congress meetings to be held in West Kalimantan in October. Church political meetings have potential to create division and/or needed change. Pray that God will be glorified all the proceedings and that they will generate much more Kingdom growth.

Team support: CBM's income for the year 2009 was down 10% but our own team support came in at a respectable 92% of expenses. Team support which remained strong for all Global Field Staff (GFS) was a major factor in helping CBM to cope with the economic downturn. So please keep up, increase, or begin to support us. It is still needed and appreciated.☺

Become a Team Supporter by contacting:

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Bill and Janice