

January 2009 - Indonesia Seminar Trip

This past month we had the privilege of traveling with our parents Don and Carol Peterson to the Island of Sulawesi, Indonesia for two pastor seminars. It just so happens that the city of Manado sits on the northern tip of this beautiful orchid shaped island and was home to our family from 1951 through 1965.



We reach our seminar location by travelling a narrow switchback road up the mountain to the town of Langoan. Entering this town is like traveling back in time! Outside of a few new homes everything is as it was 40 years ago. The Pentecostal Bible School complex sits on a sizeable piece of land on the other side of the city and in many ways stands in contrast to its surroundings with newer buildings.



Over 100 students and another 100 pastors joined in a full three days of Bible teaching and equipping for ministry. While some who came were students of Don and Carol back in the early sixties, many are of the younger generation and form a new wave of leadership.

Church growth in this region has been quite staggering and according to the latest statistics there are only a handful of villages without one of our Indonesian Pentecostal churches. Most leaders being trained in this region move to other islands to plant and establish new works.

After traveling back down to the port city, our team climbed on to a 120' speed boat and headed north to the Sangir Islands about 8 hours away. This small group of islands sit approximately 1/3 the way between Indonesia and Mindanao, Philippines. My parents had not visited here as a family since 1952 and according to reports I was the toe-head toddler everyone made over.

The classes held for about 50 pastors were an encouragement to those who rarely have visits from outside ministry. These wonderful people were responsive to teaching and very engaged in their expression of worship.



Perhaps the highlight was a brief trip across this island to the town of Peta where my Father preached his very first sermon in the Indonesian language. The young church planter there at the time rented a coconut storage shed in which to conduct evangelistic meetings. It was wonderful to see fruit from years of ministry and seeds planted.

The present local pastor's wife told us that she gave her heart to the Lord many years ago while attending those meetings. The churches of this island have continued to grow and the one special evening service there, was a attended by a gathering of 500 women who invited my mother speak.

It is places like this that we endeavor to reach! Our assignment is to encourage, equip and empower pastors in various regions of the world. We believe that investing in the lives of church leaders will help bring multiplication and increased effectiveness in reaching lost souls.

Thank you for your continued prayer and sacrifice as we reach out to nations.

