

From Indonesia



Council of the Church
Banda Aceh

February 28, 2009

The Lu Family
Banda Aceh, Indonesia

The month of February was a very short month. It was short, not because of the number of days it has, but because of the work that we had to do. The following photos speak to the work we did during the month of February 2009.



Hosting volunteers:
Clifford and Nancy Herd came to serve as volunteers with us for the whole of month February. Clifford is a retired LCMS Pastor. Their hometown is Chattanooga, TN.

Engaging with Students:
Cliff showed some of the Junior High students how to do tricks with their fingers.



A Creative Teacher:
This photo depicts the creativity of Mr. Salam. He is an English teacher for one of the Islamic junior high schools in Banda Aceh. His creativity includes employing his cell phone to help him teach English in the classroom. Occasionally, he calls Donna Meyer—our long-term volunteer—

and asks her for help with *pronouncing a word, getting ideas on how to explain certain English concepts, or learning to sing a song to his students.* He calls Donna while he is teaching English to his students in class. He has also had his students call Donna on the phone to practice their English with her. He is one of the most creative teachers that we have the privilege to work with.

Planning:
We met with the 10 English teachers, who had been specially trained by our earlier volunteers. They will now share their knowledge with other English teachers in the upcoming workshop on March 22, 2009, and those following.



Meeting:



Fungchatou went to Hong Kong to attend the Asia Team Work Group Conference. The conference focused on redefining and understanding LCMS WM Asia's goals and purposes. It was a very productive meeting. LCMS WM's staff from the different countries in Asia was represented at the conference.



Community engagement:

It was a privilege for our staff to be invited to and attended the wedding of Pak

Sofyan’s son. Pak Sofyan is the School Superintendent for the Banda Aceh School District.



Ablaze Moment:

Indonesian food often contains very spicy ingredients. However, this did not stop Clifford from enjoying his meal at the local restaurants, because he loves to be Ablaze! The dish he was eating was filled with hot chili peppers.

Relationship Building:

A farewell dinner for Cliff and Nancy. People present were English teachers and school principals from the Junior High Schools that Cliff and Nancy served as a volunteers English teacher for two weeks. School administrators from Banda Aceh School District and the Tourism Department were also among the guests.



Political Situation in Indonesia:



Please keep our family and our volunteers in your prayers. Currently, there is increased tension in Indonesia, particularly in Aceh Province,

because it is election year for Indonesia. There are

over thirty different political parties trying to get their own people to be elected to all kinds of political positions. Often, people do not play fair and this could trigger unwanted behavior. The Indonesian government has tightened many of their policies which are directly impacting foreigners. For example, we just found out that we cannot enroll in any language school without having student visa. This was never the case in the past. We have been encouraged by our local staff to be cautious. So, please keep us in your prayers. Thank you for your support.

Thank you!!!:

We would like to express our appreciation and thanks for the generous donations made by Good Shepherd Lutheran



Church in Gretna, NE, and Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa for a motorcycle. The motorcycle will be used by our staff to run errands and transport volunteers to and from schools when necessary. With the increasing price of the gas in Indonesia, having a motorcycle for us to go grocery shopping or take one/two persons some where will preserve our budget. Therefore, thank you for your prayers for the bike and for all the hard work to raise the necessary fund to make the purchase. God bless you and may His name be praised always!

Things needed to pray for

- March 2-6, Lo family will be in Bandung to look for housing and registering Gaozong for school
- March 19-20, Meet with HKBP pastors to finalize the theological training program
- March 25, Meet with GKLI church group to do community’s need assessment.

Please prayerfully support the Lo Family with your financial gift:

LCMS World Mission
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122

Earmark on the memo line: Lo Family