



Ron went to the field single in his forties and he intended to stay that way. However, the Lord led Ron to a Filipino “expat” who had come to Australia to work in the field of radiology. The Lord knew that Angie was just what Ron needed for a help-meet and they married in 1999 and serve together in this vital ministry, as well as their local church plant. The ministry is led by an elderly (older than



Rex!) pastor who has suffered two debilitating strokes and must preach sitting in a chair. In their temporary quarters at a funeral home, Ron serves as the pastor’s assistant doing the calling and much of the teaching ministry. When the pastor retires, Ron and Angie will add to their full time ministries by taking up the pastor’s mantle. We were truly blessed by worshiping with this body of believers on Easter and by Ron and Angie’s ministries!

Indonesia



Tiada janji s'perti yan
ada pada-Mu

SHOUT TO THE LORD
ALL THE EARTH
LET US SING

Yesusku penyelamatku
Tiada yang s'perti
Engkau

MY JESUS, MY SAVIOR
LORD THERE IS NONE
LIKE YOU

There is a mission song that says “*In a land far away lost souls hunger and die, under the devil’s control,*” and we think Bali Indonesia must be that place. It is a land under the influence of aggressive Muslim and Hindu religions, where, in many places, one’s life can be in jeopardy for propagating their faith. It was in that land that a young man found Christ, began serving Him and then was offered a scholarship to attend Dallas Seminary. That man, Henry Lantang, with his wife, Jeanne, knowing little English, left home, studied diligently and returned to teach prospective pastors.



We wish we could share all the marvelous things that God has done through this couple. Across the Islands of Indonesia they have spread a multitude of Bible schools where students are trained both in solid doctrine and to stand in extremely hard places!

Due to time constraints, we needed to stay in the Bali area visiting one pastors’ training school and two churches. This was the climax to our travels. Not only was it the first time we had eaten dog meat (at a church meal), but the spices made it a “hot dog!”

What a blessing as we observed and taught in the school and churches! At our first church, Andrea’s children’s church had over 80 kids four to eight years old, all from Hindu homes. They attend regularly and are learning about and accepting Christ as their Savior. The congregation averaged about 32



years old. All the converts have come from either Muslim or Hindu backgrounds during the past three years! As they voted to join their local Baptist fellowship, over 40 of them averaging 28-32 years old, most with young children, committed themselves to each begin two home Bible studies a week. Because they worship in a rented facility, which they have expanded at their own expense, and the owner is not a Christian, they must move at the end of their lease. Pray that God will provide a place close by.

We leave Friday morning to speak in New York, Ohio, IGM’s leadership retreat in Kentucky, and our quarterly council meeting in Erie, PA and then Andrea will fly back to Lancaster, CA while Rex flies out to India. There he will introduce our newest IGM Coordinator, Gulshan Lol, to our many Indian church planters.

Yours in the love of Christ,

Rex and Andrea

P.S. Dear brothers and sisters, we must thank you for your continuing support. The trips are long and tiring, but a great blessing as we represent our Lord and you to your brothers and sisters in Christ. God is richly blessing our ministry and we believe it is due in large part to your undergirding care.

INDEPENDENT GOSPEL MISSIONS

A BAPTIST MISSION AGENCY

IGM OFFICE
990 Calkins Rd.
Rochester, NY 14623

Email: igm@igmonline.org
Web: www.igmonline.org

Rex & Andrea Furman, International Director
Phone: 585-334-9048
Fax: 585-334-9418

April 28, 2009

“Down Under” is touched by the hand of God!

Scripture says “*Eye hath not seen nor ear heard what the Lord hath prepared for those that love Him.*” And that is true of our latest trip! New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia are more different from anywhere we have been in God’s world than we could even imagine. My, what blessings we received as we journeyed down under. We truly wished you were there so you could see with your own eyes what God is doing. In these lands where Christianity has grown cold (New Zealand and Australia) and then in the land of deep persecution and extreme Islamic and Hindu religions, we were blessed as we watched God’s chosen servants giving their service to Him out of grateful hearts.



We were traveling with our director, Gary Newhart, to the farthest fields of IGM and to places where the ministries are seemingly small and had never before visited by anyone from our mission. We found new and different ministries that, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, are blessed of God. Here’s a short summary.

New Zealand

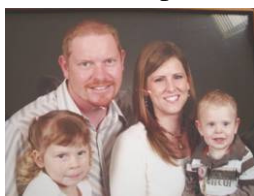


This two-member ministry is unique because our missionary Daniel Fitch, a Pensacola Christian grad, evangelist and camp director, met a camp counselor from New Zealand, Abigail. They fell in love and were married in the US. Sensing God’s call to “*come over and help us*” serve in her home country,

Daniel resigned his ministries, raised support and went to live in a crude farming cottage. There he works for the farmer on a sheep ranch to earn part of his support. Primarily, he works with fifteen young pastor/church planters spread across New Zealand’s islands. At best, the pastors have some basic theological training from two missionaries, but little



if any training in discipleship and church ministries (i.e. running a Sunday school or junior church). As we traveled with Dan, we were pleased with his maturity, understanding and application of the Word. The young pastors and their churches are growing well. One is looking to purchase land (very expensive!) while the rest all work at secular jobs and have house churches that are developing slowly but deeply.



Australia

Who would ever believe that God would call Ron Onks, a single man, to leave his home, family and friends to teach in Australia what we would remember as “released time classes”? In Australia the classes are conducted in the school classrooms under the supervision of the public school teacher. Ron teaches seventeen classes a week, using sound and solid fundamental/evangelical materials! While he is not allowed to teach about “Hell” (too negative) he can teach seven-day creation, the Ten Commandments and salvation. He is allowed to answer any questions directed to him by the students and, as any teacher knows, that lets him cover the areas in which those students are stimulated to think. Just this year there have been many salvation decisions by students as well as by two teachers.

