

Crams' Chronicles

June 2011

Dave & Joan Cram Serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators

Jakarta on Java



Members of the SIL International Board

The first week in May we attended International Board Meetings in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Dave is not a board member, but as treasurer he reports to them and assists them on financial issues.

Indonesia is primarily a Muslim country. The events in Pakistan on May 1st did raise some safety concerns. However, the country remained calm and there were no incidents. Thank you for your prayers.

Kupang on Timor

We flew to Kupang on May 8th and spent three days doing an internal controls review. Dave is busy drafting the report covering what we found and our recommended actions. We'll be developing some procedures which will make their work easier and more secure.

The Wycliffe Seed Company sponsors ten language projects in the Timor area. While we were there, two of the project groups were meeting to check their respective translations.

The Timor area is 90% Christian. Most Timorese speak Kupang Malay (a creole) and a local language. The work is being done through a partnership with the Dutch Reformed Church.

The local synod has 60-70 languages represented in their congregations and they want all to have access to Scripture.



The Helong Team, translating the Bible so the people can clearly understand the scriptures and read it for themselves.

There is still much work to be done.

Indonesian Phrases:
Terima Kasih = thank you
Selamat Pagi = good morning
Selamat Sore = good afternoon

Luke Video

Last fall, the Helong people watched the Luke video for the first time. Below is a report of the impact given by a Helong staff member, for whom English is neither her first nor her second language.

"It was so beautiful to see the congregation watched carefully on each episode in the Luke movie. While watching the episodes of the Luke film, they keep saying

'ela baktebes' means that is totally true or amen. They had goose bumps, they laughed, they cried, and smiled. They laughed at Helong term that translated from Kupang-Malay term used when Jesus said, "Herod is like a wildcat". Translation is so clear and good. The intonation use in the movie is also really good. However most people were crying during crucifixion, and said

how people could do that to other people. After the crucifixion I told them that we need to see the resurrection as well so we all know that He is risen and alive with the Father in heaven now. So we played the resurrection in last episode, episode 15."



Amarasi New Testament



Another project near the Helong is the Amarasi. Team coordinator and translator, Roni Bani writes:

“The Amarasi translation brings great changes in Amarasi people’s lifestyle. One day I gave a sermon so I spoke in Amarasi to the congregation. After the sermon, they told me that if the sermon is in the Indonesian

language, they don’t really feel the impact in the words. But when the sermon is in Amarasi they feel God’s Word to their bones.”

Give God thanks that His Word is powerful and life changing.



Sentani in Papua



Taking a tour with the head of construction

May 11-12 we flew overnight through Bali to Papua. We went there to assist two of our volunteers. They were there doing internal control reviews at Yajasi and our Papua Training Center. We spent our first day seeing the work of Yajasi.

Yajasi is our aviation partner for Papua. They provide transportation for missionaries and national workers to remote areas of Eastern Indonesia. They are in the midst of building a new hanger.

The next day, we visited the Papua Training Center. This campus serves several partner organizations. Most Wycliffe staff work under Indonesian Christian partner organizations there.

On Saturday, we visited the director of Hillcrest International School where many missionary children attend. We plan to do a review there next year.

We were blessed to stay with the family of a Yajasi pilot during our time in Sentani.

Manila

We ended our 3 week trip with 3 days in Manila, Philippines. There we met with the Asia Area Staff and the new Asia Accounting Service. (picture on the right). One of our volunteer reviewers worked there in April. Dave reviewed a draft of that report with the area staff. He also caught them up on what we saw in Indonesia.



Jean Azbell, head of the Accounting Service and long time friend, took this picture of her staff. Her picture is in the upper corner. We are also in the picture along with Billy Walkemeyer, Asia Area Finance Coordinator.

The Home Front

Our garden did pretty well while we were gone. We have fresh lettuce and radishes and look forward to peas in the near future.

Our daughter, Ellen, bought a new home in Seattle. So the day after our return from Asia, we went to Seattle to help her move. That night we had a sleepover with our granddaughter, Ella, at a local hotel so we would be out of the way of the movers.



Ella age 3 1/2

On Saturday, May 28, Joan led our church's third Done in a Day. Teams do projects to help people in our congregation and community. We fixed a gate, trimmed trees, and did some yard work at a church member's home.

June 5-10 Dave travels to Kansas City for ECFA reviews and then to Dallas for meetings and dental work.

Right after that we'll be in Seattle helping Ellen put up a gate.

Then after a week at home, Dave goes to California for a credit union meeting on June 20th.

After that trip we plan to drive to Utah to help Paul and Stephanie put in landscaping. They are working with a design company on a plan so we just need to provide time and muscle.



Dave and Bill with their finished gate at Done in a Day

Praises

- For our volunteer reviewers who have done great jobs in their reviews and are getting them completed in a timely manner.
- For our safe travel, good health and good meetings in Asia. 15 flights in 21 days all essentially on time, and no lost luggage.
- For progress in Bible Translation projects, and how the Scriptures are transforming people's lives.

Prayers

- For safe travels throughout June and July.
- For the timely completion of all the review write-ups. Somehow between all our trips the work must be done.
- For the funds and staff to start in the other 50-60 languages of Timor needing translation of God's Word
- For remaining internal control review work this year including trips by volunteers to Spain and India. Please pray for their safety, health, and that they would be a blessing and be blessed.

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*Thanking God for you,
Dave & Joan*

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