

The Crawfords



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Dear Pastor Goodban and folks at Calvary Baptist Church,

Janice and I send greetings from the United States of America. We are presently in Illinois with our oldest daughter and her family for Thanksgiving. Lord willing we will be able to visit several of our churches here on the East Coast before returning to Indonesia early in January. We do appreciate you folks who faithfully pray and support our ministry in Indonesia. While we are in the States, we do ask that you pray for several matters in relationship to our ministry in Indonesia.

First, Simply Jesus Baptist church in Jakarta. The ministry of Simply Jesus Baptist Church is continuing under the leadership of Brother Joshua with several of the faithful folks taking part in the preaching and the teaching of the Bible studies. It was difficult to leave these folks as the Lord has given us some good growth over the past few months. Yet, with our leaving for two months, it gives the opportunity for the people that have come into the ministry to really grow in following Jesus.



Let me share with you Brother David Brown's comment about our recent missions conference at Simply Jesus Baptist church:

In October, Fils and I were invited to speak at a missions conference put on by Tom Crawford, a 40-year veteran - Independent Baptist - church planting - missionary in the capital city of Jakarta. It was a wonderful and very unique missions conference. There were Pilipino missionaries to Indonesia, a Pilipino missionary couple transitioning from Vietnam to Kazakhstan, a Russian man, born in Kazakhstan now planting churches in central Kalimantan (Borneo), and an Indonesian man called to bring the Gospel to Europe. You can imagine as we sat at the dinner table together for the first time how confusing it was to communicate – the Filipino's having just arrived preferred to communicate in English, but looked 100% Indonesian, and the little Indonesian they had learned was spoken flawlessly – no accent. Then an obviously western missionary from Russia who we would on first glance naturally speak English to, knew little English and much preferred to speak in Indonesian. The Indonesian man going to Europe spoke great English, and Missionary Tom spoke fluent Indonesian with a touch of a southern accent. Needless to say Fils and I (an Indonesian-born American) fit right in ... I guess.

Secondly, Grace Baptist Church and school in Batam. Brother Andar's wife (Lestari) experienced a quite severe heart attack last week. Pray for her recovery and that the Lord will provide people who have the ability to take over the many roles she fills in the ministry there in Batam. The school started their second semester for 2023-2024 year with a record enrollment.

Thirdly, my Bible school students. The six students that I teach on Monday nights are a great joy in my life. We



finished the study of the book of Hebrews before my departure, but they asked me to delay the final test until my return in January. Pray for these students, they work jobs through the day and attend my class in the evening.

Fourthly, I have run into a problem with my taxes in Indonesia. The Indonesia tax law states that all true gifts (offerings) are not taxable in Indonesia. However, in 2020, the tax office made some new rules concerning religious gifts. Based on those rulings the tax office has decided the I must pay taxes on all my offerings since 2020. I

personally believe that my offerings are exempt, but right now I am in the process of redoing my 2020 - 2021 taxes and paying the taxes. Clearly, due to this ruling, I will need to redo the way I receive my money here in Indonesia. I am looking at forming a foundation that would function as a clearing house for missionary gifts. Please be in prayer about this matter.

December 9, 2023

Sunday, 26th November after preaching at First Baptist Church, Burbank Illinois, I had a fainting spell. The good folks at First Baptist called 911 and I wound up in the hospital overnight. After three bags of intravenous fluids and lots of medical tests, the conclusion was I am perfectly healthy. Apparently, it was just dehydration and lack of sleep. It was nice to get the good report on my health; also to be reminded to drink more water and get proper sleep. However, it came at the price of over \$6,500 and that was half price!

December 16, 2023

Over the last month we have visited churches in Illinois, New Jersey, Maryland, West Virginia and North Carolina. We have been treated royally. We cannot express the joy we have felt at being with the folks that love us and faithful support the ministry in Indonesia.

Right now we are in North Carolina to attend the wedding of our grand daughter.

For you faithful prayers and financial support we are truly thankful.

In Christ, *Tom & Janice*