Rev Dr Edgar Mayer – Indonesia Report  
(4-15 October 2010)

At first the trip to Indonesia was meant to be a low-key occasion for the pastors of the international Translinc Network to deepen their relationships with each other. However, then God stepped in and new developments began to take hold of the agenda with the result that the trip ended up serving six distinct purposes.

1) Translinc: On Monday afternoon we landed in Denpasar (Bali) and spent the first day on a bus tour with members of the Translinc Network which – under the informal leadership of Ian Shelton and Toowoomba City Church – brings together pastors from the South Pacific region for the transformation of cities and nations.

Tatjana and I enjoyed the company of the following: Pastor Ian Shelton (Australia), Pastor Colin Shaw (Australia), Peter Sondergeld (Australia – teacher & chaplain), Pastor Walo & Namana Ani (Australia & Papua New Guinea), Pastor Akira Mori (Japan), Pastor Hector de Leon (Philippines), Pastor Larry Romero (Philippines), Pastor Vuniani Nakauyaca (Fiji), Pastor Rio & Renata Sibarani (Indonesia).

God has led all of these pastors into ministry work with national and even international influence. For instance, at one time Pastor Vuniani was the chaplain of the premier of Fiji and both Pastor Vuniani and Pastor Walo have pioneered the Healing The Land process which is now transforming communities all over Melanesia and beyond (e.g. Inuit people).

Pastor Rio with his wife Renata were our guides in Indonesia. They nurture a small church but Pastor Rio’s main task is networking and facilitating ministry on a national and international level for Indonesia. He is active in bringing together the three major networks (Transformation, Prayer, Evangelism) and we have seen him weep over the lost people in Indonesia.

On Thursday (7 October) we spent another full day of debriefing with each other and sharing our lives. There was prayer for personal needs and worship.

Throughout the trip there was much laughter and joy in each other’s presence and Hector (Butch) from the Philippines remarked on more than one occasion: “You are the most ungerman German that I know.”

2) Bali Partnership: In Denpasar we met numerous Bali pastors who have committed themselves to walk in unity. This group enjoyed the leadership of generous business people and was celebrating its first ten years of existence as the Bali Partnership (initiated by Pastor Walo).
After traveling to Bedugul (6 October) we spent one whole day with this group and shared our Toowoomba experiences with them. They were impacted by what can flow out of relational unity (e.g.: City Women, Bella magazine, renewal of leaders and churches). Since we visited them as a group, they could observe our culture of relating to each other.

3) On Saturday (9 October) we flew to Jakarta and then on Sunday we split up and preached in several churches in Jakarta. Tatjana and I were preaching in a congregation that belonged to a mega-church (100,000 members). There may have been about two hundred people in attendance and after about forty minutes of singing, it was my turn to speak. I preached on Luke 7 and the challenge of recognizing new moves of God. In my sermon I mentioned the miracle of gold dust at Living Grace.

Tatjana and I finished by praying for people but at one stage I asked the pastor whether he would be open to the same miracle of gold dust in his church. He said “yes” and when I asked the congregation, the people also said “yes”. I then prayed that God would release this miracle among them – and he did. The discovery of gold dust on numerous people caused joy and tears. (Later there were also numerous members of the Translinc Network that received the gold dust.)

4) From the 10th of October to the 13th of October we attended the Asia Pacific Transform Conference (APTC) in Jakarta. The calibre of the conference can be ascertained by the fact that the Vice President of The Republic of Indonesia was scheduled to open the meeting and after the closing ceremony the entire conference (four hundred people) was invited to lunch by the Governor of Jakarta.

Pastor Rio was in leadership at this conference and networking with many influential church leaders across the nation. The Translinc pastors made a significant
impact on the proceedings. Ian, Walo and Vuniani shared the transformation stories of Toowoomba, Fiji and Papua New Guinea and Pastor Colin Shaw launched the Indonesian translation of his book “A House For His Glory”.

5) On the last day (14 October) some of us (Rio, Ian, Colin and I) traveled for two hours to another conference outside of Jakarta (Cisarua, Bogor). About six hundred city prayer coordinators from across Indonesia had come together for spiritual refreshment and worship. Colin again introduced his book and Ian shared again on what was happening in Toowoomba.

6) As it happened Suzette Hattingh was the key speaker at this prayer conference [Konferensi Nasional (KoNas) JDN & South East Asia Prayer Council (SEAPC)] and we managed to make a further connection with her as she is coming to Toowoomba in November 2011.

Indonesia itself is an experience which is stretching the mind (fourth most populated country in the world, 13,000 islands, extending over 4,800 kms, 87% Muslims). Its people are made up of many nations, cultures and languages (more than 250).

However, God packed much more into the eleven days of our Indonesia trip. There are pointers for where we are going at Living Grace:

1) God confirmed – like he was confirming the same in PNG and Fiji – that we were meant to go. For the first time he allowed us to release the miracle of gold dust on another church body. He confirmed the ministry.

2) All year God has been knitting us together with the pastors of the Translinc Network (informal relationships through TCC are older):

   On more than one occasion Toowoomba City Church has lent us a helping hand (e.g.: guaranteeing our bank loan) and together we will now explore a closer union of five Toowoomba churches (Rangeville Community Church, Toowoomba City Church, Vision Community Church, Range Christian Fellowship, Living Grace Community Lutheran Church).

   Pastor Walo Ani was the one that invited us to PNG and he is a Translinc pastor. Likewise, Pastor Vuniani Nakauyaca invited us to Fiji and he is a Translinc pastor. Then, both have preached at Living Grace this year. [Pastor Akira Mori already preached at Living Grace twice before.]

   Even our mission trip to Hopevale had a strong Translinc connection because some in the community had already taken inspiration from the Healing The Land manuals by Pastor Walo Ani and Vuniani Nakauyaca.
3) The Translinc connection allows us to draw on hard-won experiences of others. Furthermore, the focus of community transformation in this network expands our vision and values the active contributions of all church members because the preaching of God’s kingdom comes with the transformation of all spheres of our culture (e.g.: education, business, health, leisure). There is an expectation that God will heal the land and community life.

In partnership with Translinc and especially Toowoomba City Church the Living Grace congregation can not only release people for preaching and prayer but also people for building projects (electricity, water supply) and the setting up of industries (also education, nursing, etc). We can simply join an existing initiative without the need of “reinventing the wheel”.

4) Pastor Walo in PNG and Pastor Rio in Indonesia are already in contact with a significant Lutheran population in both countries (PNG – 1,2 million; Indonesia – 3.2 million) and we do believe that (according to the prophetic word through Heidi Baker) we have the “key” to the Lutherans. May we bring renewal to these groups (and others).

5) The Indonesian trip demonstrated the importance of community and the importance of ministering in a group. In Bali the majority of people are Hindus and their idols and idol worship are at the very heart of who they are as a people. In Jakarta the majority of people are Muslims and again the public cries to worship five times a day make their faith a community expression. Then, both religions shun any converts to Christianity.

The Christian faith is also about community. We love God and we love each other. Together we are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). Thus, whatever we have from God (e.g.: truth, spiritual gifts and power) is communicated and verified through a community expression.

When we do mission work as a group, we model the good news of peace with God and each other through Jesus Christ. If we cannot model the truth, people cannot take hold of the truth (John 13:34-35; 17:20-23) and we may very well be deceived ourselves (1 John 1:9-11).

It is significant that the church in the Bible always traveled in pairs or small groups. We impart what we have as a church – not as individuals. In Indonesia the Translinc group (with more Toowoomba people) demonstrated the effectiveness of the corporate anointing and there was something released to others through the unity of the Spirit in the group.

6) All of this year’s mission trips have renewed my appreciation for what we have in our midst. We are not lacking in anything. Nowhere have I experienced a greater sense of presence of God than what we enjoy week after week in our worship services. God has been releasing his Spirit among us and there is more to come.

However, God has been speaking to me about the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and the need for Christian character and holiness to sustain the presence of God among us. In this vein I have also spoken about a “Culture of Honour” that needs to grow among us.
For years we have been pressing into our relationship with God but now we have to press – in equal measure – into our relationship with each other. Look at the person next to you. Without him/her we cannot have the renewal and glory that we want. It is pointless to experience an amazing outpouring of God’s presence and power into our city but then be so divided against each other that we cannot build anything together. We are meant to disciple nations and this is going to touch every fabric of life (e.g.: television, politics, education, etc). The power of the kingdom can only be expressed in community.


Everyone is needed. Together we go further!

God bless. Edgar.