



# FRIENDS OF THE INDONESIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

## IN THIS ISSUE...

### PG 1 UPDATE FROM FR. DANIEL

Recap of visit...

### PG 3 "PS" FROM FR. GORDON

Appeal for help...

### CONTACT INFORMATION For Fr. Daniel

#### Address

P.O. Box 361712  
Columbus, OH 43236  
USA

#### Phone

CELL: (614) 352-8068  
OFFICE Ph/Fax: (614) 863-9900

#### E-mail

frdaniel\_archimandrite@yahoo.com



News from the...

## INDONESIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

*By the Very Rev. Archimandrite Fr. Daniel Byantoro, Founder & President*

Dear Friends:

By the grace of God, I have returned to America after going home to Indonesia from mid-November until late April. As I write to you, I have realized that I must return to Indonesia as soon as possible. The Church and its people need me there during this critical time.

Since I have returned to Columbus, Ohio, I have been in regular contact with the people in the Indonesian Church by e-mail and phone to make sure that all is well. While in Indonesia, I worked hard to repair damage that has occurred to GOI (Gereja Orthodox Indonesia = The Indonesian Orthodox Church) and its mission works during my almost five years of absence. I also was active in fighting against a the new law that discriminates against non-Muslims which as been proposed by the Indonesian House of Representatives. This would obviously increase the stress that Indonesian Christians live under.

The seven IOC Mission Priests came together to welcome me home when I arrived in Jakarta in November 2005. At that time I called a meeting to discuss the future planning for the missions. After a few days stay in Jakarta, I made

visitations to the various churches and mission outposts:

### Central Java

♦ Holy Trinity Church in the city of Solo and their priest, +Fr. Alexios . This is where I started my mission work in 1988.

♦ St. Mark Church in Boyolali, and priest, +Fr. Markus.

♦ The Orthodox community in Salatiga with their priest, +Fr. Antoinios.

### East Java

♦ The communities in East Java are served jointly by Fr. Kyrillos and Fr. Irenaios.

♦ St. John the Baptist Church in Mojokerto, which is my hometown. I visited my parents' grave sites to say the Trisagion prayers for them.

♦ St. Jonah of Manchuria Church in Surabaya.

♦ St. Savvas Church in Krian.

♦ Mission Outpost in Jombang.

### Fall 2005

In Jakarta, a meeting with Dr. Jason Lase, the Director General of the Department of Religious Affairs of the Non-Roman Catholic Christian Section of the Indonesian Government. I was provided with

assurance that the government recognizes GOI as the only legal Orthodox Institution with me as the founder and president.

I received a steady flow on inquirers in Jakarta and conducted a Bible study with them.

A visit to Father Gregory's hometown of Manado, on Sulawesi, an island south of the Philippines. We conducted a seminar, hiring a local music group in order to attract many people to our presentation. A crowd of 500 listened as I preached the Gospel of Christ. Those

interested in the Orthodox faith remained behind and were counseled by Fr. Gregory and me. Before leaving, I celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for two new converts, bringing the total of new converts to 25 in Manado.

On December 19, I went to Sydney, Australia at the invitation of Archbishop Hilarion to be the Keynote Speaker at an Orthodox Youth Conference. I spoke on the Mission of the Orthodox Church to the Muslims.

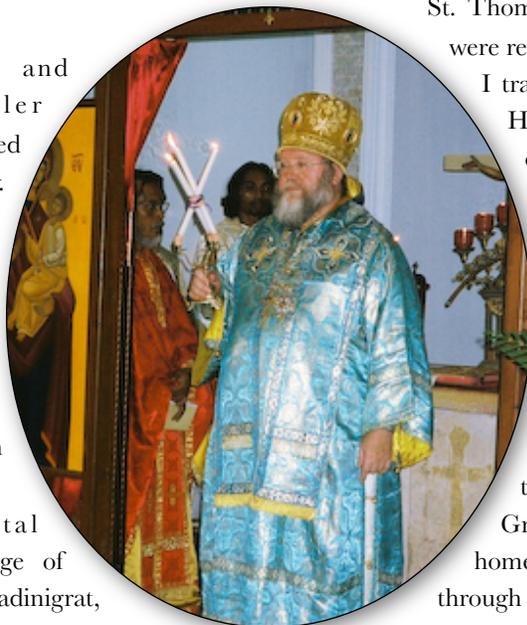


**January**

Late in the month, I was sponsored by a group going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The group consisted of non-Orthodox and Orthodox pilgrims. It was a wonderful opportunity for to explain about Orthodoxy as nearly everywhere we went, we found an Orthodox Church. While there, we met with Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem, and visited the St. Mary Magdalene Monastery in the Garden of Gethsemane (ROCOR).

**February**

Father Gordon and Seraphim Scheidler (Nashville, TN) visited Indonesia in February. Their trip with the visit of Archbishop Hilarion to ordain new clergy in solo and were also present to witness the blessing of the newly built St. Nicholas Church in Jakarta.



The Sacramental Blessing of the Marriage of David and Christine Hadinigrat, major benefactors of the Indonesian Church. After the Blessing service, a joint wedding reception and GOI banquet was held with 350 people in attendance. Archbishop Hilarion, Fr. Gordon, and Major

General Pronowo, General Director of the Department of Religion spoke. Dr. Lase also provided assurance that the GOI is the only recognized legal Orthodox body with me as it's sole president. I gave a sermon on "The Meaning of Spiritual Banquet." The evening concluded with the Children's Choir singing Christian and Folk songs.

Fr. Gordon and I spoke at a Pentecostal church meeting in Jakarta, a meeting of the Assembly of God gathering where the Holy Trinity was the topic and at the St. Thomas Parish after Divine Liturgy. All participants were receptive and enthusiastic.

I travel to Russia as a guest of David and Christine Hadinigrat to buy liturgical items which cannot be obtained in Indonesia.

**March**

I purchased a priest of property in Manado for a new church after a \$300 donation from a benefactor in the US. The church will be called, St. Mary, the Theotokos and will be home to the thriving mission there. Fr. Panteleimon, newly ordained, will be installed at the St. Thomas parish in Jakarta, replacing Fr. Gregory who will oversee the new church in his hometown. The church is still being constructed by through various sacrificial gifts, we are working hard to finish a humble but lovely building there.

I made a mission trip to the island of Timor, north of Australia. On my first mission trip to Timor in December 200, I was nearly killed by the natives. This trip, I was able

to baptize three new converts. Fr. Panteleimon visited the island, his native home, to follow up. A young man is planning to receive training and be ordained to serve the new community on this island.

## April

I conducted a seminar on Orthodoxy in Boyolali, Central Java. 84 pastors from various denominations attended the seminar with Fr. Alexios and Fr. Markus following up on those interested in Orthodoxy. A few inquirers have been baptized and more will follow in time and with persistent contact. The seminar held in Boyolali City has led to the opening of new outposts by Frs Alexios, Antonios and Markus.

I celebrated Holy Wednesday and Thursday services in Mojokerto.

I celebrated Holy Wednesday and Thursday services in Mojokerto.

On Holy Friday, I went to Solo to participate in services there before returning to Jakarta.

Fr. Alexios baptized 28 new Orthodox Christians before Holy Week and three others were baptized on Holy Saturday morning at the St. Thomas Church in Jakarta. Two believers at St. Nicholas also in Jakarta, were baptized on Holy Saturday afternoon.

The needs of the expanding mission work are great and include:

- ◆ Prayers for the steady growth of the mission
- ◆ Prayers for the 6000+ victims of the earthquake in Yogyakarta, near Solo.

- ◆ Monthly stipend of the eleven priests: \$300/person/month (\$36,360 per year)

The needs for development projects:

- ◆ purchasing lands in new area of mission,
- ◆ building churches in the new areas, charitable works, etc.

- ◆ my office and living quarters in Jakarta. (\$3,500)

The financial needs for evangelistic outreach:

- ◆ printing materials,
- ◆ transportation (such as buying motorcycles, vehicles, etc.)

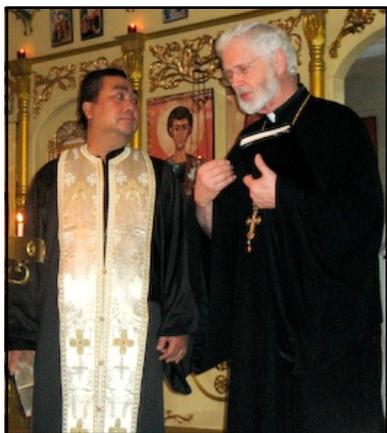
- ◆ and stipends for the trained lay evangelists who are sent to go to new places.

I ask that you prayerfully consider how you may help this ministry. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

In the Service of Christ, our Lord,

*Fr. Daniel Byantoro*

## From Fr. Gordon Walker



As you see, Fr. Daniel has been exceedingly busy and fruitful during his trip home to Indonesia. Having spent time during two different visits to Indonesia, I know how difficult his ministry is in that country. He is truly gifted by God to be an Apostle to Indonesia. In less than six months, he has opened work in five different places including remote islands. Also, he greatly strengthened the Churches and missions on his home island of Java. Such ministry though, makes him a prime target in the spiritual warfare which surrounds him.

Pray also for his encouragement. Often, he has voiced to me his feeling of being “lonely” and “forsaken by his friends.” Because of jurisdictional difficulties here in America, he is separated from many whom he loves and whose friendships have sustained him in the past. Pray that God will provide his

needs as well as those to whom he ministers in Indonesia.

Thank you very much for your gifts and prayers for his vital ministry.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Gordon T. Walker*

*Thank you for your prayers & financial support.*

Please make your checks payable to:  
**Friends of the Indonesian Orthodox Church**

**P.O. Box 9484**  
**Baltimore, MD 21228 USA**  
[info@friendsofindonesia.com](mailto:info@friendsofindonesia.com)

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_