



## LAW STUDENTS, LAWYERS, AND SUPREME COURT JUDGES RISING UP FOR JUSTICE IN INDONESIA

Patrick Talbot | September 2018



On August 16-18, law students, lawyers, Supreme Court justices and other advocates gathered in Bali for the Indonesian Justice Conference to learn, encourage each other, and discuss ways of transforming the justice system. As the fourth most populous country on earth, after China, India and the United States, and the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, with a population of 270 million, Indonesia has the largest economy in ASEAN, but its justice system is plagued by bribery and corruption.

### **Indonesian Christian Legal Society (PPHKI)**

PPHKI has grown from one local chapter in 2012 to 13 chapters in 2018 with advocates meeting regularly in cities across Indonesia from Jakarta to Papua. During the Opening Ceremony of the Justice Conference, law students held flags representing their law schools, ministry leaders and a Supreme Court judge encouraged the participants, and all shared in a wonderful time of praise and worship. On Friday night, the advocates gathered for a prayer concert led by a variety of pastors and leaders of prayer movements.

### **Biblical Worldview and the Next Generation of Leaders**

With the generous support of Advocates International, LPMI (Indonesian CRU), Perkantas (Indonesian InterVarsity), TransformWorld Indonesia (TCI) and Campus Network, law students came from 20 cities and 15 provinces across the country to learn from Christian lawyers and Supreme Court judges on topics ranging from global trends in the legal profession, religious freedom, human trafficking, peace and reconciliation, anti-corruption and radicalism. As a foundation for transforming the justice system, Patrick Talbot, Vice-President of Advocates International, taught sessions on Biblical Worldview of Law, Justice, and Government using his newly released Study and Prayer Guide on the same topic. The book was translated into Bahasa Indonesian just in time for the Conference, and charted the Conference's course for its themes on Justice. The book will also be used for follow-up and

discipleship in the local attorney chapters and in Christian law student fellowships starting at many universities.



This Conference introduced some clarifications toward a more biblical view of Social Justice, using lessons taught in the story of the Good Samaritan. Significant emphasis was also given to the strong connection between increased justice in a nation (both legal and voluntary kinds), and improving its economic and social welfare (see Prov. 14:34, and various World Bank studies).

One of the exciting activities was having the students compete in teams of up to 5 individuals each, in which they were asked to identify 5 problems of corruption (lack of rule of law) in Indonesia, and offer 5 solutions to those problems. The responses are being typed up after the Conference and the best ones organized into a document we hope to present to the appropriate ministry of the Indonesian government, as student suggestions. We now have a very enthusiastic class of about 50 students who are eager to reflect Christ and promote justice in Indonesia.

### **Break-Out Sessions**

In addition to training from experienced advocates, numerous break-out sessions gave the participants opportunities to discuss issues impacting Indonesia, along lines of the themes in AI's 7 global advocacy projects. Kathy Talbot led a session on the importance of God's design of Marriage and Family in transforming the justice system and led a training with the Indonesian Cru (LPMI) on why and how to share one's faith.

### **Commitment to Integrity**

At the closing ceremony, law students and advocates stood and recited in unison a commitment to integrity and received a certificate and business card with the commitment that they can keep in their wallet to remind them of their declaration. This Conference would not have been possible without the stalwart servant leadership of the Indonesian Christian Legal Society, including Tony and Mardiana Budidjaja, Frederik Pinakunary, Hasudungan Manurung, Dave Surya, and many dedicated staff and volunteers.