SEPTEMBER 2019

The Indonesia Story: An Example of How Advocates International Mobilizes and Inspires Lawyers, Law Students and Judges to Do Justice in Their Nations

Dear Friends,

“My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm.” Isaiah 51:5

17,000 Islands in Southeast Asia make up the country of Indonesia, the fourth largest country on earth with a population of 270 million, and the world’s most populous Muslim country.

In May of 2012, Brent McBurney, President of Advocates International, and AI Global Council members Mark Mudri (Australia) and Gregory Vijayendran (Singapore) drove into downtown Jakarta from the World Prayer Assembly to meet and encourage Tony Budidjaja, of Budidjaja International Lawyers. Two months later, in July of 2012, our family visited Indonesia and introduced a former Indonesian law student, Saudaranta Tarigan, to Tony. Pat taught Tarigan in South Korea. Later, at dinner in Central Jakarta, they talked and prayed about officially starting an Indonesian Christian Legal Society. In August of 2012, the first meeting was held in Central Jakarta with less than ten people.

In August of 2013, we moved to Indonesia where Pat taught law at Universitas Pelita Harapan and launched the first Christian Law Student Fellowship (CLSF) at the University, while serving and strengthening the Indonesian Christian Legal Society. The Indonesian name of this Society is, Perhimpunan Profesi Hukum Kristiani Indonesia (PPHKI). In 2014, the Indo CLS had the great privilege of hosting the Advocates Asia Conference in Jakarta. Nearly 300 students, advocates, judges, ministry leaders and justice seekers attended throughout the weekend.
In the past 7 years in Indonesia, we have been blessed to see how our AI connection has helped bless and make a difference in PPHKI and in Indonesia. PPHKI has grown from just one chapter in Jakarta in 2013, to a truly national, Indonesian CLS, with chapters in twelve cities.

God has raised up great leadership to see this through since the Indo CLS began, including Saudaranta Tarigan, Fredrik Pinakunary, Tony and Mardiana Budijdaja, David Surya, Hasudungan Manurung, Albert Aries and many others. We have been blessed to serve alongside them.

2019: IN 7 YEARS PPHKI (Indonesian Christian Legal Society)

- 12 cities now have local chapters of lawyers and advocates with their own boards
- In 2014, hosted the Advocates Asia conference with law students, lawyers and judges from 20 different countries
- Since then, PPHKI has hosted several Justice Conferences where lawyers, judges and law students have come from 20 different cities in Indonesia
- Prison Ministry and Advocacy
- Seminars on Religious Freedom, Anti-Corruption, Peace and Reconciliation
- Legal Aid helping cases from trafficking, false imprisonment, and children’s issues
- Initiated a Monthly Christian Law Student and Young Lawyers Fellowship, and a new Christian Legal Studies program
- Impacted hundreds of law students

GOAL FOR THE FUTURE: To raise up 1,000 young lawyers and law students to transform the justice system. Right now, most universities in the country having a law school also have a Law Student Christian Fellowship of some kind. Some universities have an average of about 300 students as part of these fellowships; that’s a lot of students! And yet they need equipping in Christian Legal Studies.

Thanks to your generous financial and prayer support, Indonesia currently has one of the fastest growing associations of Christian advocates, and students, in the world. Help AI mobilize and inspire other countries around the world to follow suit. “It only takes a spark to get a fire going.” Help sponsor another country to start, or strengthen, a similar CLS in that country! Let’s do this together. Some countries only have 1 or 2 known Christian lawyers, while others are larger but are seeking equipping. Help us at AI to encourage and equip them!

Blessings from Indonesia,

Patrick M. Talbot
Vice President

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