

THOUGHTS

By Douglas W. Schroeder

SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

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GOD IS WORKING WONDERS IN INDONESIA!

I felt the power of the Holy Spirit at work in Indonesia and Singapore as I visited there this past month. Thank you for prayers for our ministry there and safety as I traveled!

The Word Today is currently broadcast in the language of Bahasa Indonesian on the island of Bali, and the language Javanese, spoken on the island of Java, will be added this year as one of the 13 languages in our expansion to a total of 65! Bali is predominantly Hindu, and Java is mostly Muslim. Yet, there is a mix of Christians, Hindus and Muslims on both islands. These are but two of the many islands comprising Indonesia, home to about 250 million people – crowded!

People are listening to The Word Today there in droves! I was able to meet with groups of listeners, such as at a Listener Rally in the city of Denpasar, Bali, and in the homes of others in places such as Batu and Surabaya. We also have a listener group comprised of a church of blind people in the town of Negara. *Globally, pastors are instructing their congregations to listen to The Word Today for Christian instruction! We are helping them form and grow churches!*

HOME MADE RADIO STATION BROADCASTS THE WORD TODAY!

In one of the towns we visited in Java a man has been so moved by Christianity that he has set up a 150 foot radio tower in his backyard, and built a studio into his home! He and his wife started a local Christian radio station to broadcast the Gospel to the mostly Muslim community!

I was privileged to visit this station, and through a special private donation to The Word Today a deficient generator was replaced with a suitable one so that frequent power outages will not affect the broadcast. Some did not wish to see a Christian station and attempted to establish 300 competing signals on the same frequency! However, the owner after five years of effort obtained the only legitimate radio station license from the government, and immediately jacked up the power to obliterate the signals interfering with transmission of the Gospel!

The Word Today is a favorite program on this station, which broadcasts contemporary Christian music, and some programming in Cantonese, which the Asians who come to Java speak. The Word Today is so well received that the station gets calls regularly to replay the program because it is loved and so beneficial for instruction! Praise God that our efforts are being multiplied!

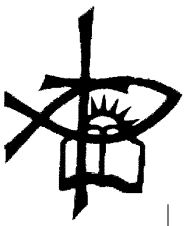
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SPIRITUAL LAZINESS AND THE GOSPEL

One of the most interesting aspects of the trip for me as a spiritual leader was observing the universality of certain human traits. I was constantly welcomed warmly by Muslims, Hindus and Christians alike in this overtly open society. At one outdoor restaurant which had some native bamboo instruments (think of a xylophone with bamboo "bars" of different sizes, which are to be struck), which proved too enticing not to have fun with. I pretended to play them behind my back, which set off an entire table of Muslims laughing uncontrollably; then they wanted a picture with them! I was instantly famous! I'm guessing the picture is on Facebook or Instagram somewhere.

More seriously, the weakness of the flesh exhibited in spiritual laziness influences all religions and all cultures. Moderate Muslims (basically, similar in attitude to secular, or nominal, Christians, were everywhere. Most people ignored the prayer calls emanating from mosques. We even had "neighbors" attending The Word Today's listener rally!

There are vast numbers of people in name associated with different religions, but they are tuning in to The Word Today! And they are finding it refreshing spiritually, positive and life-changing! The spiritual laziness which causes so many of our brothers and sisters to fall away and backslide out of the faith happens in all religions. They obviously did not find their faith of their birth compelling enough, and are inwardly seeking something different.

Since early days studying theology I have known of this aspect of the body of Christ, but it was instructive to see its effect in a different culture. Just as there are people not terribly motivated by Christianity in our country, there are millions of equivalent "seekers" in other lands. The Word Today comes to them bringing a new paradigm, one which speaks of a loving Father and his Son, Jesus, who redeems people from their sins. In many parts of the world this is far from a worn-out message, but rather a scintillating revelation which drives major change in their lives as they come to Christ!

LET'S KEEP PROPELLING THINGS FORWARD!

Thank you endlessly for your commitment to The Word Today! I believe that if we use our means in this life, and through planned giving to be implemented when we die, The Word Today can reach 100 languages someday! Please join me in praying for that vision to become reality. In the meantime, know with certainty that there are so many more people than we imagine hearing the Gospel and finding it marvelous!

SWEET AND SOUR DUCK

Now for a bit of fun; keeping in the tradition of Pastor Paul, who loves his restaurants, I introduced a new culinary delight to Bali! It seems traditionally they love spicier preparation of duck, as well as sweet and sour fish. I decided to have one restaurant, whose owner is a woman who listens to The Word Today, prepare sweet and sour duck! All locals who first heard the idea were perplexed; it had not occurred to them. But, when the dish arrived, wow was it good! I convinced some of the Indonesians to try it and they love it! A new food dish sensation is born! I had a bit tougher time selling my idea for dried snails and chocolate; it's a bit like chocolate and peanuts. Really, it's not that bad!

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder