



Thoughts From Dave – It may be difficult for you to imagine, but long distance airplane travel helps me better understand God’s grace. Despite the many inconveniences air travel brings, three thoughts stand out for me. **First**, flying at 38,000 feet offers an incredible view of God’s creative genius through which I am reminded that this world is structured by a sovereign God who holds all things together. **Second**, landing in different parts of the world allows me to see the universal and damaging nature of sin, despite all individuals being made in God’s image. **Third**, I am constantly reminded of the good news found in Psalm 103, where after describing God’s impeccable character the Psalmist writes: *“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”* Next time you fly, think about these things and give thanks for God’s amazing grace found and proclaimed in the gospel.

Teaching at Artha Wacana Christian University
West Timor, Indonesia
September 25 – October 2

Last year, after presenting seminars at the University’s Theological College, I was invited to return and teach a course on the Old Testament. As it turned out, there was a need for someone to teach an intensive *Introduction to the Old Testament* course for this fall semester. So, I agreed and because this is a required course I am assuming there is limited grasp of the Old Testament in most first-year students. Sure, individual stories are known, but understanding how the Old Testament fits together is another story. Please pray for the approximately 80 students taking the class and for wisdom to understand the cultural barriers that must be overcome as we study God’s Word.

- Class 1 Structure and Sources of the OT
- Class 2 Creation (Gen 1-3), Ancient History (Gen 4-11)
- Class 3 Origins of the Nation Israel:
 Founders/ancestors of Israel (Gen 12-50)
 Leaving Egypt (Ex 1-15),
 Law and Ritual (Ex 20-40)
 Ritual and Holiness (Leviticus)
 In the Desert (Deuteronomy)
- Class 4 Joshua and the Occupation of Canaan
- Class 5 Judges and Ruth
- Class 6 The Kingdom of Israel - Part 1
- Class 7 The Kingdom of Israel - Part 2
- Class 8 The Divided Kingdom & Prophets
- Class 9 Poetical Books
- Class 10 Interpretation of the Old Testament
- Class 11 Overview of Old Testament Themes
- Class 12 Course Wrap-Up

Pray for Our Indonesian Friends and Partners

Dr. Adriana Tunliu is Vice Dean of the “Theological Faculty” at Artha Wacana Christian University in Kupang, West Timor. Dr. Tunliu is a dedicated biblical scholar and plays an important role in shaping theological education at the University.



Students at the University’s Theological College are preparing for some type of Christian service. Pray for them as they study and prepare for future ministry.

Pastor Gabriel (Gab) Bria stands 4’8” but is a giant in the region’s church leadership. His life impact is seen in his mentoring relationships, like the one he has with **Pastor Yullius**, an administrative leader of the East Amarasi GMIT churches.



Ben Grimes works with the “Language and Culture Centre” where he focuses on the use of local Timorese languages for discipleship and understanding of the Scriptures. Ben and I work together in the pastor/church leader seminars, as well as the University courses. Pray for Ben, Emma, and their family.

Our vision is to encourage and equip less-resourced Majority World pastors through biblical teaching and resources. Beginning in Uganda, we will assist national church leaders and mission partners as they nurture pastors and develop emerging leaders to the glory of God.

Dave's Upcoming Schedule

September 18 –I leave Elmira, NY at 9:45 am flying through Detroit, Japan and arrive in Singapore at 12:10 am on September 20th.

September 20 – 23 – These days in Singapore are hosted by Peter and Nancy Jackson. Time will be spent meeting with former Cornell University students that attended Bethel Grove Bible Church, while studying in Ithaca, as well as investigating possible Partnership connections for future ministry in the region.

September 23-24 –Travel to Kupang, West Timor, with an overnight in Bali.

September 25 – October 2 – Teaching an Old Testament course (see first page) with teaching times running from 7:30 – 9:10 am and 10:40 am – 12:20 pm most days, except for one class on Tuesday and Saturday.

October 3 – 8 – Opportunities to teach and encourage pastors and church leaders will be done in connection with the outreach ministry of the “Language and Culture Centre”. Ben and I will work closely with the denominational leaders of local churches. Our seminar topics will include “Spiritual Leadership” and “Leadership Temptations”.

October 8-9 – Board a 1:35 pm flight in Kupang to return home. From Kupang, I fly through Jakarta, Singapore, Japan, Detroit and return to Elmira October 9th at 5:00 pm. (The fun fact is that the 40 hour travel time actually takes only 28 hours on the clock due to time difference and crossing the international dateline.)

More on the Ugandan Training the Trainers Project

Recently, I received a letter from Pastor Abel Segirinya after our recent Training the Trainers Session in Kampala. I share his thoughts with you as an encouragement on the impact of this project. I thank God for Pastor Abel and Harriett's friendship through the years.



“Dear brother Dave,

I thank God that you traveled safely to the USA, I sincerely enjoyed the fellowship we had together in Kampala during the training of trainers, I also would like to thank you for your wonderful approach of involving us the Ugandans to be part of the teaching staff, I enjoyed teaching my session on the “Theological approach to the African Traditional Religion”. It was quite timely to these trainers of trainers, to be able to learn these issues, because many Churches in Africa tend to mix African cultural practices and the Bible. Because of such mixture (Syncretism), people begin to get "Fears" because they are not sure of the supremacy of the Biblical creator God. Such uncertainty and fear leads them to look for a deliverer, either their fellow human being or any other spiritual force somewhere.



Am so glad that our trainers of trainers learnt:

1. The Bible is our only source of authority, and it should be taught in its proper contextualized form, without mixing it with other funny cultural practices.
2. God is supreme above anything else and He is the creator God who should be worshipped, not worshipping things that He created.
3. Worshipping other things other than the creator God is sin, and all people who do that are under God's judgement.
4. Trainers were given Biblical scriptures, related to the subject.

Thanks, greet Joyce for us, much love from,
Pastor Abel”

Keep Us In Your Prayers

Because October follows September in our calendars, we have one more month before things change in the Jones house. On October 11th, Joyce will finish her work at Cornell University. We are grateful for the way God has provided for our needs through her work. As we prepare for the new opportunities God brings our way, we ask for your prayers and support! If you desire to provide some financial resources for this new ministry phase, go to www.partnershipsfortraining.org and visit the “support” page for more information. Thank you for your continued interest in what God called us to do and for your love and friendship!

