

**Thanks for your prayers for our recent trip to Indonesia!** Together with Pastor Eric Hause, Joyce and I represented Bethel Grove Bible Church at the dedication of the Lole Scripture and the launch of Amanuban Gospel of Mark. It was quite a trip, with travel surprises and wonderful connections that cemented our ministry partnerships. These pages attempt to capture the trip's whirlwind nature in pictures and brief stories, but it is impossible to share the privilege of our partnership in this limited space. We are grateful to our partners, Chuck and Barbara Grimes, for inviting us and for your continued encouragement and support!

**June 9-11 - On Island of Rote for Lole Scripture Dedication** – After days of travel to West Timor, we grabbed a few hours of sleep and boarded a plane for Rote. Staying with a host family allowed us to join in on their personal celebration of the Scripture dedication, though the event was held in an open field with more than two thousand people present.



Following a colorful procession of children, community and church leaders, the Lole Scriptures arrived by horseback. The program included a drama portraying early Rote life and the role the gospel played in the Island's history. The drama also illustrated how hearts were opened to Christ and the church was established. During the celebration, choirs sang, prayers were offered, a Lole language sermon was shared, and special recognition given to the role of the GMIT church in the translation project. (*GMIT is the largest Evangelical denomination in*

*Indonesia with well over 1 million members and thousands of churches*). The end result was a beautiful picture of the partnership between a denomination and Bible translators for the glory of God. Due to Rote's cultural significance, Indonesian TV reported on the event and it was viewed by millions across the country.

The translation team and many others were honored for their contributions to the effort. Dave was asked to represent John Miller of the Seed Company to distribute copies of the Lole Scripture to local leaders. Later in the service, "John Miller" was called forward to receive an honor. This gesture was a huge surprise, so Dave walked forward as John Miller's representative and received a signature Rote hat and colorful woven cloth. While we never are certain what will happen on these trips, we left Rote filled with joy for all that God is doing on the Island.



**June 11-12 Dave teaches at Artha Wacana Christian University** –

After an early morning flight, we arrived back in Kupang for afternoon classes at the University. The assignment was to teach on "Biblical Culture in the Poetical Books" for two classes over two days. Seventy first-year students packed the chapel and it was enjoyable to open the Scriptures with these emerging leaders.

This is the fifth time Dave has been invited to teach at the University and the hope of future visits already is being explored by Ibu Adrianna Tunliu. This beloved professor, pictured with us at the Amanuban Mark dedication later in the week, impacts students through her loving and mentoring spirit. She also has a long-standing commitment to work with translation teams at the GMIT's Translation Center. **Thank God for her faithful teaching ministry and commitment to God's Word.**



*Thanks for your continued interest and prayers in all that the Lord is doing through "Partnerships"!*



**June 13-14 – Launch of Amanuban Gospel of Mark** - We traveled to the town of Niki-Niki in the mountains of West Timor for a special event that launched the Amanuban language version of Mark's Gospel. Once again, a colorful combination of cultural identity and a distinct honoring of Scripture was on display. Local government officials, church leaders, community leaders, and the community at large gathered in a large church building to give thanks for this first translated New Testament book. With the leader of the GMIT denomination present, the importance of healthy partnerships for Bible translation was evident to all.

One of the day's most enjoyable parts was the opportunity to interact with the youth of Niki-Niki. Their choir participated in the celebration and the joy of their voices, along with the beauty of their spirit, filled our hearts. It is clear that all ages were impacted by God's Word translated into their heart language. After a full day of celebration, we returned to Kupang moved by God's gracious presence in all that occurred. **Pray for the growth of Bible study groups that will take the study of Mark's Gospel seriously in the months ahead.**



### ***Pray for Upcoming Ministry in Uganda***

**July 26-27 Another KBC Discipleship Trip to Masaka** – Kampala Baptist Church (KBC), our “on the ground” partner in Uganda, is ready to send their teaching groups back to the Masaka region. This second visit will provide another round of discipleship training for 23 regional churches. KBC's leaders developed the curriculum and are committed to fulfill this focused ministry. **Pray for our partners as they offer this important ministry to the Masaka churches.**

**August 18 – 23 Training the Trainers Project in Kampala** – Dave will travel to this final large group session which completes their three years of study and mentoring. Though already actively engaged in training church leaders in their regions, this session will solidify their commitment and call to teaching others. **Pray for the participants to catch a vision of what God has for them in the future.**

### ***More Updates***



**It Sold in One Day** - Last month, we mentioned that it was time to move closer to Matt's family in Mechanicsburg, PA. So, we put the house on the market and when arrived in the Jakarta airport, we discovered an email stating that a purchase offer was contingent on our signing the purchase agreement. It was due in 12 hours. With the help of Chuck Grimes, we printed, scanned and immediately returned the documents to our realtor. Closing will be near August 13 and we hope to be in Central Pennsylvania by the end of the year. Until December, we will remain and work in Ithaca along with trips to Uganda and Zambia planned for the fall. **Please keep us in your prayers during this transition period.**

**What's That Mean For The Future?** God willing, we will travel globally and teach with our current partners at least to the end of 2020. We are encouraged by the various programs offered through our partners and are grateful for a growing interest by several individuals to join in this training outreach. Conversations are happening about a larger vision for emerging leader development and deployment of trained teachers across Uganda. Additional global teaching partnerships may open up with new teaching colleagues joining the team. We ask that you keep all this in your prayers and we promise to keep you posted on the opportunities and developing partnerships as they present themselves. Thanks for standing with us in so many ways.

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