

CRUSADES FOR CHRIST

CALVARY CHAPEL SANTA BARBARA & REVIVE INDONESIA
HOLD CRUSADES FOR THOUSANDS IN INDONESIA



Photo by Gary Gruetzmacher

Missionary Brandon Ingram prays with a man during the crusade.



Indonesian teens follow the hand motions during a crusade hosted by CC Santa Barbara (CCSB) and Revive Indonesia. While Indonesia is 86 percent Muslim, the island of West Timor consists of many who consider themselves Christians. Some do not understand, however, that a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is required for eternal life.



Photo by Gary Gruetzmacher

Pastor Ricky Ryan introduces the youth jam on the last night of the crusade.

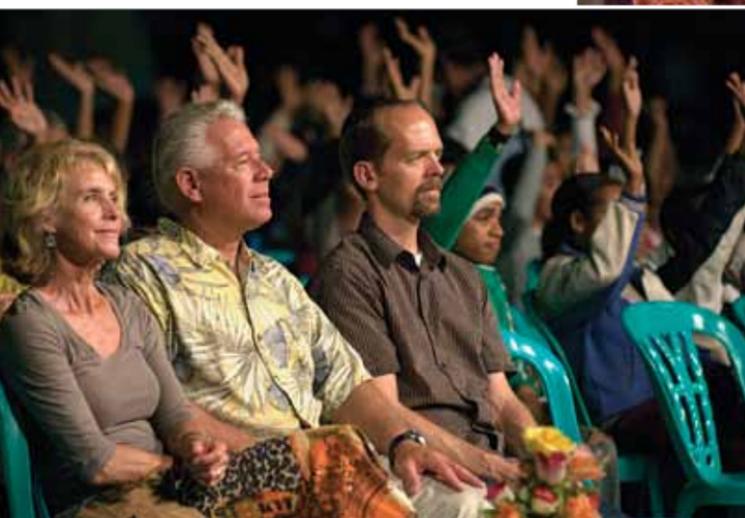
Story by Ellen Gaston
Photos by Sadie Lyda, unless otherwise noted

Prison gates rattled as believers knocked on the green steel doors of Lapas Dewasa prison in Kupang, Indonesia. Missionaries with Revive Indonesia said that the prison had never before opened its doors to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In preparation for an outreach with a team from Calvary Chapel Santa Barbara, CA, the missionaries had knocked daily at the prison doors for weeks. They wanted to share the divine truth of God's Word that sets people free from the bondage of sin. Finally, on that summer day in 2009, the doors opened.

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me ... to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound."
Isaiah 61:1

Moving Hearts

Lars Linton, assistant pastor at CC Santa Barbara, eyed the open-air prison. Nearly 1,000 grim-faced inmates had gathered to see the visitors. It was Lars' first time leading a prison outreach. The small band of Christians began to sing worship songs and share testimonies. At first the prisoners frowned, arms crossed. Yet after listening to the young people's stories and their heart-felt songs about Jesus, the prisoners' hardness seemed to fade. "Their faces began



Pastor Ricky Ryan, his wife Linda, and Pastor Troy Spilman of CC Santa Barbara, CA, watch the crusade.



Photo by Gary Gruetzmaecher

Dancers from a local Kupang church perform during the outreach.

to soften,” said Lars. “Many of them even began to clap and move around.”

Jaime Merrill’s enthusiasm was evident as she led worship and prayed. A southern California teenager, Jaime had found Jesus after a long hard road. She related her own experience in jail, adding, “No matter what you do or what happens, the Lord will always forgive you if you ask. He forgets about your past.” Afterwards as an Indonesian believer challenged prisoners to accept Christ, hundreds came forward, many with tears in their eyes.

A Prisoner’s Confession

One man, a Muslim, had stood with shoulders hunched and head down while the team played worship songs and prayed with inmates. As others came forward for prayer, the man shuffled to the side and waited for someone to pray for him. Lars offered to pray and listened as the man shared his story.

Recently, while he was asleep, he felt that Jesus had come to him in a dream. The man shared his amazement that God would respond to his need so quickly by sending foreigners to tell him about Christ. Lars then explained that Jesus Christ is God’s Son, who died on the cross for every man’s sin.

“I want to accept Jesus in my heart,” the man confessed. Bowing their heads together, they asked Jesus for the free gift of salvation.

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.”
Matthew 10:32

Bringing Christ to the Islands

Approximately 270,000 people live in Kupang, the capital city of West Timor, an island in southeastern Indonesia. Unlike the majority of Indonesia, which is 86 percent Muslim, Kupang consists mainly of professing Christians. However, according to Randy Denham, president of Revive Indonesia, many who profess Christianity believe they will inherit their parents’ religion. They have not heard that eternal life requires each person to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.



CCSB musicians lead worship during the crusade. Believers from California shared their faith through street evangelism, prison ministry, medical outreaches, and VBS.

Photo by Gary Gruetzmaecher

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
1 John 5:20

Indonesia

Revive Indonesia (RI), a nonprofit organization, has been ministering in the island nation full time since 2003. Pastor Gary Galbraith of Revival Christian Fellowship, a Calvary Chapel in Menifee, CA, had visited Indonesia regularly for several years and sought a more permanent work in the mostly Muslim country. In 2003, the church sent out long-term missionaries Randy and Debbie Denham to oversee the ministry and raise up native believers in leadership.

RI has grown to include a Bible college, Christian orphanages, a vocational program, and ongoing medical clinics. Their long-term efforts are boosted by short-term teams who come to assist. CC Santa Barbara frequently works in conjunction with RI on mission trips, and this summer they hosted outreaches and crusades.

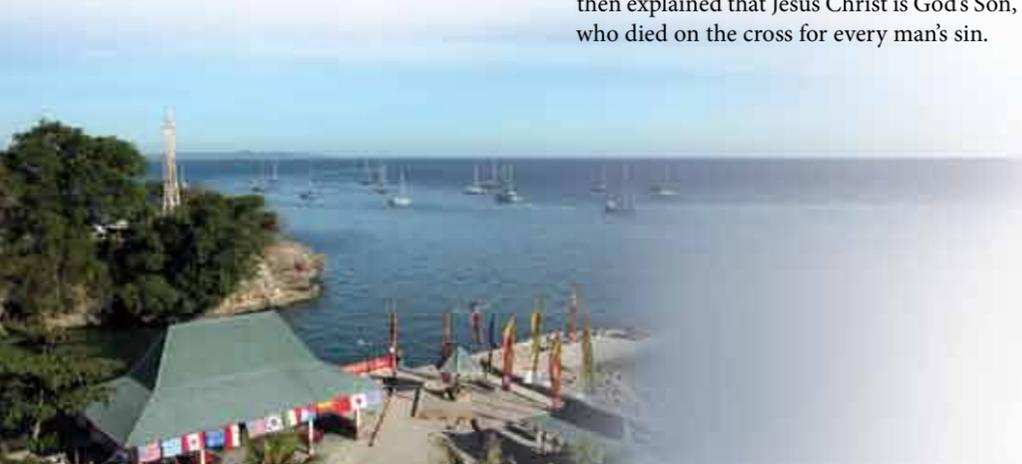
In addition to hosting three traditional crusades and three youth-led crusades in Kupang, the 75-person team shared their faith throughout the city of Kupang. Day and night, believers from CC Santa Barbara assisted in street evangelism, prison ministry, medical outreaches, vacation Bible school, and other outreaches.

Call the Children

Escaping the stifling heat in the shade of a jungle gym, 15-year-old Gaby Wildfeuer, a high school student from CC Santa Barbara, was surrounded by a cluster of 30 children. They looked excitedly at the multi-colored bracelet she was making. Known as salvation bracelets, these bands have different colors that represent sin, Christ’s sacrifice, and the eternal life that comes from knowing Him. After explaining the meaning of the bracelets to the children, Gaby knew that someone should ask if they wanted to accept Jesus into their hearts. Looking around for help, she thought, *There’s no one to ask.* Then she realized, *There’s me.*



Chris Haskell, a CCSB team member, tells a young boy about Jesus as he makes a salvation bracelet for him during VBS.





Ricky, right, thanks Pak Mel Adoe, the head of parliament for the southeast island province of West Timor. The CCSB team was greeted with a welcoming ceremony at Kupang airport. Each person was given a special Ikat scarf.



Linda enjoys interacting with the Indonesian children.

photo by Paul Metzner

After recently rededicating her life to Christ, Gaby had memorized a simple prayer to confess one's sin and ask for forgiveness. However, Gaby had never helped someone else to do those things. Nervously, she rose to her feet and stood in a circle with the children. She asked them to say the prayer with her if they wanted to accept Jesus. The jungle gym was filled with the sound of children's voices thanking God for His love and asking Him into their hearts.

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

Crusading Youth

Older youth also flocked to outreaches that week. Bright lights and Christian rock music drew thousands of young people to a three-night crusade hosted by RI and CC Santa Barbara.

At the first night of the crusade, speaker Mike Silva reenacted the message of God's redemption. Dramatizing the story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22, Mike showed how God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac. God then provided a substitute sacrifice in the form of a ram. Mike related the story to the Gospel. He told of how Jesus Christ, God's only Son, died as a substitute for man's sin and death. More than 4,000 people saw this demonstration and heard the Gospel

message. The second night drew nearly 5,000 people and the third close to 8,000.

Every night, after the main Gospel presentation, the youth invited the people to stay for a prolonged time of worship led by CC Santa Barbara's youth group and featuring messages on the reality of God. Youth Pastor Nate Wagner and the high school group shared the Gospel many times with Indonesian youth. "Most of these young people are really open," Nate commented. "They just want the truth."

Senior Pastor Ricky Ryan also saw that same hunger for truth among the youth. "Our vision is to reach the young people who consider themselves culturally Christian but don't have a relationship with



Gaby Wildfeuer, center, a 15-year-old high school student from CCSB, leads a group in prayer. The children accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior at VBS.

Christ," Ricky said. "We want to show them that young people can love the Lord with all their hearts."

Not Ashamed

The American teens and their Indonesian translators encouraged each other to share the Gospel with boldness and challenged each other to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance. They cited Paul's declaration:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. Romans 1:16a

Most of the 100 translators working with the team were university students who came from Christian homes, but several had not heard of a relationship with Jesus. At the

students' request, the team organized a conference at the university to teach about believing in Jesus and leading others to Christ. Many of the translators gained a personal understanding of Christ and a newfound passion for the Gospel. Several began initiating outreaches as they felt led by the Holy Spirit.

A New Boldness

Chichi, an Indonesian believer and translator, sat in the sand assembling a salvation bracelet. A group of people gathered, wondering what she was doing and asking questions about the bracelet. Chichi showed the bracelet to share the Gospel and prayed with the onlookers.

Lars tells of one occasion when he and a translator made an unplanned decision to witness at street shops. "The first shop

"Our vision is to reach the young people who consider themselves culturally Christian but don't have a relationship with Christ. We want to show them that young people can love the Lord with all their hearts."

Pastor Ricky Ryan



Kristi Ware, center, and the CCSB team lead kids in games during VBS.



Photo by Paul Metzner

An Indonesian college student assists a local boy in making a "helping hands" T-shirt during VBS at a village church.

was almost empty—just a counter and a couple of teenagers lounging outside,” he recounted. “We presented the Gospel to one person, then the next, and the next. We gave each of them a bracelet and explained its meaning. We told them that it’s a reminder of their decision to accept Christ.” Eight people made professions of faith through that step of obedience.

The Enduring Harvest

“Translators now meet regularly as a group for Bible study and evangelism since the outreach,” said Randy Denham. “It has touched many of them and encouraged them in their walks with the Lord. Some have made individual professions of faith.” Randy and the other long-term missionaries are following up on the short-term work done by CC Santa Barbara. “The people

of Kupang benefited greatly from the outreaches,” Randy said. “They are asking for another team to come next year.”



Kupang is the largest city in West Timor.

CC Santa Barbara

www.calvarychapelsb.com
info@calvarychapelsb.com
 805-730-1400

Prayer Requests for Indonesia

A team from Revive Indonesia, a CC missionary organization, helped with cleanup efforts after a 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck off the Indonesian island of Sumatra on September 30. Some villages simply disappeared and many residents were buried under debris. Over 1,100 people are known dead at this time.

Finding shelter for the survivors has become a top priority as only four percent of homes were undamaged in the district of Padang

Pariaman. Team members assisted survivors traumatized by their loss. They asked for prayer for those working in the midst of the devastation and that their witness would be a shining light to those in darkness.

The missionaries reached out to Muslim families impacted by the devastation. Plans are to send other teams throughout the fall and winter. Revive Indonesia grew from the missionary outreach of Revival Christian Fellowship, a Calvary Chapel in Menifee, CA.



Indonesian Red Cross workers locate victims buried by the earthquake.

photo credit: International Federation of Red Cross