

PEKANBARU CHURCH OF CHRIST UP DATE

MUARA FAJAR CHURCH OF CHRIST



Praise the Lord for His blessing on our mission travel to Pekanbaru on August 26th. We even enjoyed crossing the sea by ferry for 5 hours and the ride on an economic bus for 4 hours to reach the church. It was such a pleasure to meet with brethren face to face after a year of not seeing their faces. I brought a young brother Immanuel along with me to give him an opportunity to experience and get more training in the mission field to fulfill 2 Timothy 2: 2. When we arrived at the church, they welcomed us with joy, beautiful smile and shakehand each other and then had a welcome drink of fellowship.

My first day in this area, I listened to brother Fatimbowo as a leader of the church about the situation and condition of the brethren. Then I focused on visiting the members to make a reconciliation among them and the result was all the brother and sisters who withdrew 2 years ago returned to the church and have attended worship since Sunday August 31st. After worship, we had a church meeting to make a commitment to forget the past things and look forward to the future.

In the evening we had a Bible class. I taught and answered all of their questions and all brethren were really enthusiastic to hear the Word of God. From the morning to afternoon I discussed with Fatimbowo about the biblical leadership to open his mind for preparing the men to be spiritual leaders of the church. He accepted my ideas about the leadership and also he has committed to sharing the leadership with the other men. Another important thing that I spoke to him about what it means to make a disciples until they can make another disciples. However I saw in his face that it was difficult to understand me but one day he can try it.

The other day, Fatimbowo and I worked on the land certification papers which the department of religion asked him to change the ownership of the land into the name of the church, so the surrounding people can not bother the existence of the church of Christ in this area and then available for construction of the permanent building in the future. The process starts with area government, then village leader, local government and then district

government and then arrange affairs to issue a certification of the land. The process is really complicated and long as hundreds of other people also apply the same thing. I presume it will finish next year. We need to pray for this as the process has already started.

KULIM CHURCH OF CHRIST



After worship was over at Muara Fajar, we headed to the Kulim church of Christ by local transportation to have a service on at 4:00 PM. All the members there are faithful and they also welcomed us with joy and sincerity. I encouraged them from 1 Thessalonian 1:3-15. It was interesting to them because they are same i.e a poor church but have a zeal for the Lord. After service was over, they served us with food and drinks and we had a very beautiful fellowship. All were very happy.

Yohanes, a first term student did a good job, as he has a talent to serve the church both in song leading and preaching. I asked him to give close attention to the church there by opening a Bible class on Wednesday midweek on 6 PM. I encouraged him to pay close attention to the men and select spiritual men to prepare them to become leaders by starting with giving them a small task and middle task till they can handle a big task. I spoke to him to make them a disciples until they can make another disciples. I really enjoyed having a fellowship with these brethren as all them are humble and friendly.

DURI CHURCH OF CHRIST



The following week, we departed to the church in Duri. We went there by a public bus for four hours on the trip from Pekanbaru. All members are Batak people and came from Lutheran church. They were really rejoiced in the Lord greatly to welcome us and then shake hand with each of us.

The next day, I sat with Jannes a leader of the church face to face to hear from him the situation and condition of the church. All members are faithful by attending the worship every Sunday. Some weaknesses that I found are: they seldom to have a Bible study, no studying before worship and no midweek or monthly fellowship. So I spoke to Jannes personally, to give an attention on edification of the brethren. He accepted and confessed his weakness as a leader of the church and I encouraged him to do these things as soon as possible.

In the evenings, I focused on leadership improvement. I stressed to them to improve their ability to serve the church both in worship service and during the week. I encouraged them to diligent to go to visit the sick people, comfort the mourning, help to resolve a family problem, youth ministry and Sunday school teaching. I also asked them to have a leaders meeting once a month to evaluate the work of the church and improving the ability to make a disciples until they can make another disciples.

LEADERS OF THE DURI CHURCH OF CHRIST



(From left to right: Tambunan, Aruan, Naibaho and Jannes)

During my staying there, I asked Immanuel to follow the leaders to visit the members in the hospital, house to house and leading a praying at each places. This was intentional as we need to give them examples of service.

On Saturday Sept 6th, We had one day seminar with the theme: "Toward indigenous church". I spoke to them much about the responsibility of each members according to their each talent. Like: Preaching, teaching, praying, building relationship, usher, generosity, visiting, money, discipleship, etc. There were many questions and I answered them with details of Bible interpretation and examples of the first century churches. My purposed was to cut their cultural view and open a view to Biblical concept. We started in the morning and closed at 5:00 PM.

THERE WERE TWO BAPTIZED THERE BY THE NAME OF YUSUF SITANGGANG (21) AND NOVITA PASARIBU (22). But no pictures of them as the camera was not working well.

On Sunday Sept 7th, I exhorted them to stand faithful to receive blessing from God but if they are unfaithful no blessing but finally a curse (Deutronomy 28: 1-6; 15-19). My purpose was to encourage them in faith and hope on their daily basis.

EXTRA

I heard new that there are some faithful brethren in Dumai about 15 persons. An older brother who was working in the gas fields passed a way about three years ago and since then the members are weak in faith as they have no leader at this moment. They hope an evangelist will come to serve them. However they still don't have the ability to pay an evangelist but there are a many people living in this town and there is a potential for evangelism to have an indigenous church in this area.



Herbin Simanjuntak