



# Caroline and Dick Seed

Link Letter no. 81 | December 2025

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**Location:** South Africa



**What we do:** Training Bible teachers in key theological institutions across the African continent and beyond



**Equipping and encouraging** where followers of Jesus are in a minority

Dear friends,

At the end of September we visited Indonesia for the third time to run training in theological research methodology for a consortium of 50 evangelical colleges drawn from across the vast archipelago that comprises the Indonesian nation. Indonesia is the most populous Muslim nation in the world, but it still has a sizeable Christian minority making up about 10 per cent of the population. We arrived the weekend before so that we could visit one of the churches and were heartened to see hundreds of students flocking into worship services throughout the day. When we asked, we were told that they came from the numerous universities in the city, drawn initially by online worship and then by youth-oriented services in the churches.



*Youth service on Sunday*

Despite seeing this encouraging growth, while we were there we became increasingly aware of the difficulties facing Christians. The purpose of the workshop was to help the lecturers to prepare research papers for a symposium on the role of the church in society, including what it means to live as “a minority amid majority hegemony.” They were particularly concerned with investigating the role of the church in supporting Christians from rural areas who are being overlooked in the general development of society. The question was, “How should we, as the Christian church, live in Indonesian society?” In Indonesia, all lecturers in theological colleges are also leaders in the churches. This was not just an abstract question but a vital question for the life of the church. They had already formed cross-church groups and prepared proposals for papers that they would deliver in 2026. Our task was to help them to refine their work by giving them some theological and practical assistance.

We were very encouraged by the growth of capacity in the participants over the three years we have been working with them. On the last day, they presented the abstracts for their papers and we were able to give them some constructive feedback. It seemed to us that their answers to the question of how they should live in society fell into three categories, namely, live faithfully, live thankfully and live expectantly.

## 1. Live faithfully in God's Word

The group expressed commitment to reading the Bible and asking what it teaches about the role of the church in the world. They did not want to follow secular or popular trends, but wanted to ask what God's Word has to say about social, political and economic issues faced by Christians. They wanted to explore the relationship between what the Bible says and what Christians actually do, so that they can live out God's Word faithfully in their context.

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**With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges**



## 2. Live thankfully in the moment

Despite the problems they experience as a minority, they abound with thanksgiving. Each day began in prayer, worship and meditation on the Scriptures. The present, the moment of gathering together in the Lord, is always a moment of heartfelt joy and praise. Despite the problems and difficulties, the response of the church is to praise the Lord with their whole heart. Doxology is at the heart of our response to the love of God in Jesus.

## 3. Live expectantly in hope

There was a lot of research done on the kingdom of God that has already come with Jesus' life, death and resurrection and will come in full when Jesus returns. This is the hope of the church in Indonesia, indeed it is the hope of all Christians. In the meantime, as they wait, the church must take the gospel into all the

world. This is the mission of the church in Indonesia as it seeks to help the Christian minority struggling in adverse circumstances.

As we approach Christmas, these three answers speak to us all. In the light of the incarnation, we are all called to live faithfully, thankfully and expectantly in the contexts to which the Lord has called us. Please pray for the Christian church in Indonesia as it celebrates Christmas, asking the Lord to comfort those who are struggling and to strengthen the leaders of the churches as they prepare the way for the church to assist their brothers and sisters in distress.

You might be wondering what this has to do with our work in Africa. There is a historic link between South Africa and Indonesia through the Dutch East India Company and here in Cape Town, we share some of the Indonesian cultural heritage. But more than that, we are called to strengthen the church wherever the Lord calls us. That has been in many different contexts over the years, but in particular, please pray for the areas that the Lord has called us to in the next three months:

- ▶ Pray for the church in Angola that has asked for urgent assistance. Caroline will be going there with Relay Trust and two Portuguese-speaking colleagues from the church in Brazil in November.
- ▶ Pray for the small Anglican church in Chile where we ran Phase 1 lecturer training in 2024. We will be returning to complete their training in December.
- ▶ Pray for the online Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Theological Education as we finalise preparations to begin in February 2026. Give thanks that lecturers have registered for the course from all over Africa and Latin America.

With every blessing in the Lord for Christmas and the new year.

Dick and Caroline



*Photos from top to bottom: A visit to the royal palace; Dick sampling Javan coffee; a traditional batik artist at work; official group photo*



## Equipping where followers of Jesus are in a minority

**We've been encouraged to hear** from others who are part of our wider area of work. In India, growing hostility towards Christians leads church pastors to trek into the hills to meet with and disciple one another. And in the Middle East, women are leading other women from Muslim backgrounds to faith in Jesus. Read more at [churchmissionsociety.org/equip](https://churchmissionsociety.org/equip)

Please note that opinions expressed in updates are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society. If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this update on a regular basis, please email [supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org) or call 01865 787400. Church Mission Society is a Registered Company No. 6985330 and Registered Charity No. 1131655 (England and Wales) and SC047163 (Scotland).