

Dear Prayer Partners,

Tuesday Carol and I leave for Malaysia and Indonesia. This is going to be an emotional trip for us, special at two events:

First, when we meet Raymond's wife Sussana and the children. Yesterday was the 100th day of Raymond's disappearance. The police gave a press conference. They said they have a person under custody. But gave no more information. They mentioned two angles of probe. One- "who abducted Raymond and what has become of him?" Two- They want to probe into Raymond's proselytizing of Muslims. This police report will only add to Sussana's distress. She will now fear for their believers.

And this police probe may not resolve in finding Raymond, but most probably will cause more persecution for those involved in reaching Muslims in Malaysia. How can Carol and I encourage these brothers and sisters in Malaysia? We can only feel with them the cost of the cross.

Second, when we do a retreat for about 20 leaders from Southeast Asia involved with us in Muslims ministry. The theme of this retreat is "Facing the challenge of persecution". All these 20 leaders know Raymond. They each face their own existential persecution in their respective countries and communities. They will be sharing experiences of real time persecution faced by them. Again, this can be an emotional time for all of us as participants share their experience. We appreciate your prayers for this retreat from June 1st to 4th. We desperately need the Spirit of the Lord to speak to the heart of these leaders and for these leaders to hear from the Lord Himself their personal response to their existential persecution.

My lungs have not been doing well these days. I have decided to return to the US after 18 days. I am taking sufficient medication, including a portable nebulizer. I will return on June 12th. Carol will stay on to speak to the women in two retreats in Indonesia. Praise the Lord, her broken foot has healed and the steroid shot to her nerve in her neck has taken care of her neck pain. Pray for unction as she speaks to the women. She returns on June 30th.

I am sure when we return home, we can report to you that we have seen and heard Faith and Boldness of the book Acts among these national church planters.

Blessings

Bala and Carol