

***My call to missions*** in Indonesia was in the early 1990's but that 'call' had no affirmation to a specific place or people group. As I began to be more and more exposed to the Unreached People Group movement, I was burdened for the Sundanese people group of West Jawa.

In July 1996, together with a group of Bible college students, I went on my first mission trip to Indonesia. The itinerary of the trip was to visit and minister to fellow believers in towns and villages in West Jawa. Upon our arrival at a village, the elder kindly and thoughtfully requested that we kept a low profile when ministering to a handful of believers and that encounter was to me a challenge to bring the Gospel to more of the people there who had not heard of it. That evening, while taking a stroll through the village, I prayed and sincerely asked the Lord if this was where He wanted me to be.

Although, my passion and burden for the 'Unreached People Group' of Indonesia increased, I still did not have that clear Divine indication as to where it should be.



was in January 1997.

Then in the late 1996, I received a facsimile which highlighted the plight of a Children's Home in the island of Nias and my first response, after reading the needs of the underprivileged children, was to throw it away because, to me then, that Niasan community had already received the Gospel of Christ. Evidently it did not happen and my first trip to the island

As I sat next to our interpreter and listened to the stories of the many young children who were in our midst, a deep sense of compassion developed within me.

After the one-week trip, I came to know a Christian community in Nias who professed to be believers of Christ and yet were involved in the occult. Next, they had a large number of underprivileged children who did not have their daily needs met and had no proper education. Their opportunities to a brighter future were bleak. But it was the plea



of a leader that gave me a different perspective to my call into missions. He said that many of these underprivileged children were sent to the local non-Christian orphanages.

I had a clear grounded view of the mission field and yet I was perplexed. Jesus said to his disciples: ***'Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields...'*** **John 4:35b**. My struggle was that even though the Lord showed me the underprivileged children (*the field*), I had my eyes down for the fear of committing to the unknown, sacrifice of the separation with family and convenience to a comfortable lifestyle.

The book of Hebrews says, ***"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"*** (**Heb 11:1**). It was this faith in Jesus that eventually led me, in the month of June 1998, to make that firm decision. What followed it was like participating in a track-and-field event (the hurdles), staggering out of the block only to realize that I had never run this race before. Tomorrow's Hope is almost in her 20<sup>th</sup> year and I am still knocking down the hurdles. In a conversation with a friend pertaining to the faith and the mission, he abruptly suggested, in his atheistic view that I should now focus on my life. What then is my life? Years ago, in Nias, while watching the plane, with my family on board, take off, I had questions but with no answers. The separation from my family has always been difficult and what more to live in an unfamiliar society. I watched the plane until it was out of sight and when I turned back towards the vehicle, three pairs of teary eyes were gazing at me. In the eyes of the three orphans, who had accompanied me, I saw compassion. Immediately I was again reminded of my purpose in missions but the overwhelming joy within me was that My God had answered my prayer, and He is still doing it to this present day.

To my atheist friend, lovingly I told him that my life is in the hands of Christ Jesus. To serve the underprivileged children and to give them a brighter hope in life is a demonstration of my faith in Christ. But more importantly, by living out in faith, God is drawing me closer and closer to Him. It is not what I am doing for Christ but what He is doing in and through me.

***"Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus."*** (**Phil 3:12**)



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