

# Friends of Indonesia-Australia

## Supporting the Indonesian Orthodox Church



His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, Archbishop of Sydney, Australia and New Zealand with the clergy of the Indonesian Deanery in Holy Trinity Church, Solo, Central Java, Indonesia. Built in 1996 Holy Trinity was the first Orthodox church erected in Indonesia.

### WHAT IS THE INDONESIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH (GEREJA ORTHODOX INDONESIA)?

The Indonesian Orthodox Church comprises the Indonesian Deanery of the Sydney, Australia and New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. The Deanery is headed by Archimandrite Daniel, Indonesia's first Orthodox priest, who has converted some 2500 people to Orthodoxy. The Indonesian Orthodox Church has over 30 parishes and missions scattered throughout Indonesia's 17,508 islands served by 15 priests and 3 deacons. With a population of around 238 million people, and a predominate Muslim culture, Indonesia presents many challenges and enormous difficulties for Christian evangelism. We wish God's help and future success in their missionary works to Archimandrite Daniel and his co-strugglers, who have already converted, and continue to convert so many Indonesians to faith in our Saviour Jesus Christ and membership of His Holy Orthodox Church.



## HOW DID THE CHURCH IN INDONESIA START?



**Above:** Archimandrite Daniel, first Indonesian Orthodox priest and founder of the Indonesian Orthodox Church. Father Daniel is forced to spend 6 months overseas every year to plead for funds to support the priests of GOI.

The Church began with the conversion of Father Daniel Byantoro, a former Muslim who longed for a deeper certainty of God. In high school the young Byantoro met a Christian, debated him, and won. But the Lord Jesus Christ, seeing the young man's longing for the One True God did not stop there. One night he received a vision. Jesus Christ appeared to him.

Afraid and confused but drawn by the Christ who appeared him, the young man searched the Koran even more deeply and through it encountered this passage that recalled the Annunciation when the angel Gabriel approached the Virgin Mary: "Remember when the angels said: O Maryam, surely Allah gives you glad tidings with a Word from Himself, His Name will be the Messiah, Isa, the Son of Maryam. He is great in this world and hereafter, and he is among those who are near to Allah."

### ISA (JESUS) IS THE WORD FROM GOD

"So the Messiah, Isa (Jesus) is the Word from God," he said to himself. And so began a long journey that would ultimately end with the young Byantoro's reception into the Orthodox Church.

But the Lord was not finished. After a proper education and formation in Greece and elsewhere, and after ordination as an Orthodox priest, Father Daniel returned to Indonesia and began building the Church. Today over 30 Orthodox parishes and missions exist in this predominantly Muslim land.



**Left:** Father Athanasius, Deacon Father Chrysostomos and parishioners of Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, Jayapura, Papua. The church is built on Father Athanasius' land, and his family, together Father Chrysostomos' family, live in lean-tos built on either side. **Right:** A mass baptism in Holy Trinity Church, Solo, Central Java.



### WHO ARE THE FRIENDS OF INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA?

Friends of Indonesia-Australia (FOI-A) was established in July 2010 with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, and exists to raise awareness and support for the Indonesian Orthodox Church (GOI). Its members are clergy and laity of the Australia and New Zealand Diocese. Our purpose is to disseminate information about Indonesia, the Orthodox Church in Indonesia, and to encourage Orthodox Christians in Australia to support the Church in Indonesia through their prayers and gifts. We work in conjunction with the priest and two parishioners of St Thomas Orthodox Church (GOI-ROCOR) in Jakarta who form the Financial Advisory Committee and are responsible for distributing the funds collected here in Australia to the Indonesian priests. Our work is to help establish the fledgling Indonesian Church by helping Father Daniel and the faithful priests who serve with him. As we all know, it is dangerous for Christians living under Islam, and especially dangerous for converts from Islam, being under a ban of death. We invite you to join us in this important and God-pleasing task. **For information about *Friends of Indonesia-Australia* please contact Hieromonk Joachim - (02) 4626 3945 or Protodeacon Christopher Henderson - 0421646422.**



## **AN APPEAL BY HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN HILARION HELP SUPPORT OUR INDONESIAN PRIESTS**



The Indonesian Orthodox Church under the direction of Archimandrite Daniel (Byantoro) is a part of the Sydney, Australia and New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR). Through Father Daniel's vigorous efforts, hundreds of Indonesians have responded to the Gospel and embraced the Orthodox Christian faith. It has been my privilege to ordain a number of these converts to the priesthood, and they are in turn establishing mission parishes and communities and undertaking the work of evangelism.

These valiant priests and their families experience many problems and difficulties in a predominantly Muslim country. Known as Orthodox Christian priests it is very, very difficult for them to obtain meaningful employment and obtain sufficient income to care for their families and obtain necessary Church supplies. The people to whom they minister are often in economically disadvantaged rural areas and are only able to contribute to their priest's welfare in kind.

Therefore, I bless the initiative of the Friends of Indonesia-Australia (ROCOR), to raise funds to give these struggling missionaries a monthly stipend. Donations can be made in Australia to the account administered by the committee of the Friends of Indonesia-Australia (FOI-A). The money collected will be disbursed monthly in Jakarta by approved delegated local representatives of FOI-A, directly and equally into each priests bank account in Indonesia. Details of the monthly disbursement will be available to any donor and recipient, and an annual financial report presented to the Diocesan Council.

I therefore appeal to the God-loving flock of the Australia and New Zealand Diocese and all Orthodox Christians of goodwill to sponsor a priest in Indonesia for a minimum of \$50.00 per month for 3 years (i.e. \$600.00 per year for 3 years). By helping our clergy with a guaranteed monthly stipend we lessen the burden on Archimandrite Daniel in his untiring work of funding the work of the GOI and spreading the Gospel.

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### **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

#### **HELP PROVIDE A MONTHLY STIPEND FOR OUR INDONESIAN PRIESTS**

**The Orthodox Church in Indonesia is growing and they desperately need our help! Most of the Indonesian Orthodox parishes are desperately impoverished, and cannot support even their own parish priest, much less Father Daniel as he travels to evangelize.**

**Many fellow Orthodox Christians in Australia and other parts of the world have responded over the years, and the Indonesian Orthodox Church has grown tremendously because of their generous gifts.**

### **WHO CAN GIVE?**

**We invite individuals, families, parishes, sisterhoods, monasteries and youth groups to consider sponsoring an Indonesian Orthodox priest for a period of three years. This will provide our clergy with stability and an increased confidence and capacity to serve their communities.**

### **PLEDGES**

**We ask that pledges to support a single priest be made for a minimum of AU\$600.00 each year for three years (AU\$50.00 per month). The annual pledge can be donated either in full, half yearly or quarterly. The pledge system allows us to plan with confidence and ensure that our priests receive regular assistance.**

### **ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES**

**All money pledged and donated will be sent to Indonesia. The monthly bank transfer fee to Jakarta will be our main expense and will be covered by the committee of FOI-A through local fundraising activities. Internal bank transfer fees in Indonesia are minimal or free.**

## PARISHES AND MISIIONS OF THE INDOONESIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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| <p>1. North Sumatra: Community of St Sergius of Radonezh</p> <p>2. Riau: Community of Sts Mitrophan and Tatiana</p> <p>3. Jakarta: Parish of St Thomas</p> <p>4. Central Java: Grasak Mission, Grasak<br/>Holy Trinity Parish, Solo City (Surakarta)<br/>Ngemplak Mission, Ngemplak<br/>St Anthony the Great Mission, Salatiga<br/>St George Mission, Tlatar<br/>St John of Kronstadt Mission, Semanggi<br/>St Mark's Community, Boyolali<br/>Tambak mission, Tambak</p> <p>5. West Java: Bandung mission, Bandung</p> | <p>6. Yogyakarta: Yogyakarta City Mission</p> <p>7. East Java: Jombang City Mission<br/>Kabuh Village Mission<br/>Planda'an Village Mission<br/>St Jonah of Ninevah Mission, Surabaya<br/>St Panteleimon Community, Mojokerto<br/>St Seraphim of Sarov Community, Gresik</p> <p>8. Bali: Bali Mission</p> <p>9. East Nusa Tenggara: Kupang Mission, Kupang</p> <p>10. North Sulawesi: St Gregory of Nyssa Parish, Manado<br/>Tomohon Mission</p> <p>11. Papua: Church of the Resurrection, Jayapura</p> |
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**COMPLETE THIS FORM , CUT IT OUT AND POST TO**  
**FRIENDS OF INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA**  
**57 Crown Street, St Peters NSW 2044**

**Yes, I/we agree to help provide a monthly stipend to one of our Orthodox priests in Indonesia.**

*Please tick the option of support of your choice*

- ( ) I/We would like to pledge \$600.00 per year for three years to provide a clergy stipend and will pay:  
 ( ) A lump sum of \$1,800.00 ( ) \$600.00 annually for 3 years ( ) \$300.00 twice yearly for 3 years
- ( ) I/We would like to pledge \$.....:00 per month/ quarter/ 6 months/ year (*circle one*) for three years to help towards a clergy stipend.
- ( ) Enclosed is a one-time gift of \$.....:00 to help towards a clergy stipend.

**Please make your cheque/Money Order payable to *Friends of Indonesia-Australia***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Donations of any amount at any time can be made via direct deposit to our bank account:  
*Friends of Indonesia-Australia*, Commonwealth Bank, Burwood NSW, BSB 062128 10499901