Week 2**- Suggestions for New Life in Indonesia**

* The following is a compilation of suggestions to living well in Indonesia:

**Households**

* Keep valuables in hidden place in your home. These items could be hard to resist with even the most faithful of helper friends.
* Requests for money come frequently. Ask around the m community for wisdom in addressing these realities. Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment as well. Most door-to-door solicitors can be politely asked if they have a stamp of approval from the RT (local government recognized leader).
* 220V will give you a significant shock here. Make sure you carefully handle electrical outlets and appliances. Same caution you would use in your home country applies here.
* Your housing contract should be read carefully (don't assume that it will say what you asked your landlord to include) before you sign it. For the contract to be legitimate, you and the landlord’s signatures need to be written across a stamp called a *meterai*. You should include the right to sublet.

**House help (*Pembantu*)**

* As an employer, you have a great opportunity to demonstrate the profound difference of being a Christ follower. You will be seen as a patron and they will see themselves as the client (the caretaker and the cared for).
* Discuss with them;
* Expectations of days working, days off, national holidays, work desired, food included, savings incentive plan if desired, and medical help. (Ask for receipts where you can obtain them, for medical and educational expenses.) You might consider helping with their children’s education needs, but get some advice and pray about this before committing to this.
* Establish that you are a follower of *Isa Al Masih* and that impacts your desire to want to treat your employee(s) with high respect and value, and to establish good patterns of communication and understanding.
* Express your commitment to not leaving the male of the home alone with female helper/helpers at any time, in order to guard a reputation for purity – for both yourselves and for the helpers. The same thing applies for women with any male helper. It is best that the female be the main communicator with female helpers and same is true for the male with male helpers.
* Loaning money is not a good idea here. The honor/shame aspect of how they view others to whom they are indebted is hard to break. Plus, you are demonstrating a new and better way of helping them to live debt free, not the encouragement of indebtedness. Either give assistance outright as a blessing or give a small portion toward the need.
* Finally, you are expected to give your helper the equivalent of one month’s bonus pay for their special respective biggest holiday . (*Lebaran* for Muslims, Christmas for Christians, and so forth).
* Be gracious in correction. Model what is important to you and walk them through doing it in the way you would like. Do lighten up and release the desire to have everything done in precisely your preferred way. Be flexible but decide what is most important to you.
* Develop a plan for what your helper can do if he/she faces a problem and you are not home. For instance, if you are not there, leave phone numbers of team members so your helper can call for help.

**Safety**

* Keep doors locked during the day. Petty theft and break-ins are VERY common.
* Be careful leaving the ATM/bank with money! You may be followed. NEVER leave anything of value locked in your car.
* Be careful of pickpockets.
* Give your helper clear safety guidelines. Instruct her not to open the door for anyone she does not know and to request a “*kartu pengenal*” from anyone saying they are checking the water, electricity or collecting the TV tax.
* Get to know your neighbors. They are your best watchmen. An informal neighborhood watch approach is one of the best ways to keep your house safe.
* Be sure someone else on your team has a full set of your house keys.

**Miscellaneous**

* Assume that you are the wealthy foreigner. That is how you will be seen, no matter what level you choose to live at. Be wise in discerning when you are being charged at higher prices by virtue of this reality. Be gracious in response to heightened prices. Joking is a great way to negotiate and let them know you desire the local price where possible.
* Decide what will be important to you when being stopped by a policeman. Be kind, polite and ask for explanation of what you may have done wrong. They will at times ask for money to “take care of things right away.” Which means they pocket the money. Or, you can go to the police office with him to show your license and STNK and discuss the accused wrong you may or may not have committed. Be careful not to assume the worst of the police; that attitude will be hard to hide in your conversation.
* Lifestyle: choose to match your lifestyle to the cultural norms as much as possible. Westerners too often tend to come to field and try and recreate their home culture, which can isolate them from the people they have come to reach. Seek the Lord’s balance for you in this area.
* "Where are you going?" (*Mau ke mana?*), is what Indonesians say instead of "Hi, how are you?" You do not need to give a specific answer. You can simply say, “*Jalan jalan*” or “*Ke sana”* or something else equally vague.