

Indonesia 2025 Trip Summary

Wednesday-Friday, October 21-23

At the outset of the long journey to Indonesia, Bishop David Haines and Father Paul Rivard flew (from Wilmington, NC and Greenville, SC respectively) to Atlanta where they boarded a plane to Amsterdam. After an 8 hour layover, the next flight was boarded heading to Jakarta with a short 1.5 hour break at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Spending the night in Jakarta, the final flight to Manado, Indonesia was boarded the following morning and finally the two arrived on Friday in the early afternoon. With the clock exactly 12 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time and a journey of several dozen hours behind them, the two felt surprisingly ready for introductory conversations.

Fr. Juris Kangihade was waiting outside the Manado airport along with a parishioner named Arthur. Both were eager to finally meet members of the APA in person and the four headed to a local restaurant called Tuna House where the menu was comprised of freshly caught tuna from the ocean surrounding the peninsula of North Sulawesi where Manado is situated.

The circumstance in Manado is somewhat different from that of the other Global Partners of the APA. While Bishop Haines receives requests from around the world to join the APA Global Partners, most are redirected to pursue closer relationships with already existing Anglican jurisdictions. In this case, the Anglican Church in Indonesia is a part of the Diocese of Singapore in the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON), along with six other southeast Asian countries. Fr. Juris' request for help from the APA comes after the decision to leave GAFCON due to the increasing pressure on the Indonesian Anglican Church to accept and put into practice various elements of the charismatic movement. Fr. Juris and his parish wished to remain true to catholic Anglican theology and liturgy and were marooned, feeling ignored by the enormous hierarchy of a seven nation diocese, and lost as the proverbial sheep without a shepherd.

Fr. Juris and Bp. David had been communicating back and forth for months prior to the visit, arranging what has been approved by the government as The Foundation of Yayasan Misi Episcopal Indonesia. The establishment of a foundation was discerned to be the best move since Indonesia requires a minimum 10,000 members before they will allow a group to be registered as a church. As it stands, the fledgling Global Partner consists of Fr. Juris and his parish which has taken the new name St. Swithin's Anglican Church. As a sign of God's providence, the process of establishing a foundation, which can take years, was successfully approved within two weeks of application. As an unexpected blessing of the new arrangement, the ministry is approved to expand not only in the area of Manado but anywhere in the country of Indonesia. This greatly increases the potential for outreach and expansion in the coming years.

After a joyous late luncheon (complete with fresh dragonfruit juice) the four proceeded to the hotel where Fr. Juris gladly signed the required Oath of Conformity and received a license to minister

under the oversight of his new Bishop, David Haines. Fr. Juris breathed a sigh of relief and said it was like a 50-pound weight was lifted from his shoulders as he at last found episcopal oversight from Bp. Haines who was willing to travel the world to pay a visit and build a relationship. Fr. Juris reported that he had never been visited by his own bishop before, and that previous visits were delegated to the Suffragan Bishop of Malaysia who hails from a different diocese.

Not long afterward, with Arthur having departed from the group along with his wife, Pamela, who had arrived during the meeting, the group drove to pick up Fr. Juris' wife Christy and their sons Lucas and Jan, heading to another restaurant for supper. In the country of Indonesia which is over 80% Muslim, Manado is a haven for Christians because of the centuries old influence of the Dutch. It seems that on every street, corner, lane and alleyway there is a church. Flaunting the freedom of this unique city surrounded by Islam, the popular destination restaurant for the night boasted beer, pork, Christmas decorations and the promise not to close until 2 AM each night. The group left long before that and settled in for the night.

Saturday, October 24, 2025

Though Manado is unique as a majority Christian city, nevertheless the Muslim call to prayer began blasting from the minarets of more than one local mosque beginning at 4 AM. The call to prayer began before the roosters had stirred and it was hard to ignore the two or three men discordantly singing in Arabic over loudspeakers. The wake up call had its benefit though as a reminder of the original Benedictine call to prayer upon which the Muslim practice is based. Early morning church bell peals and amplified morning prayers could also be heard by anyone living near the churches of Manado. This is certainly not a town for sleeping in!

In mid-morning, Fr. Juris arrived at the hotel to take Bp. David and Fr. Paul to see the site where a new church is soon to be built. One of the members lives next to a lot that has been lent to the church with a 20 year permission for use. A simple chapel will be built here to host roughly 60 people until a more permanent arrangement can be made in the next few years. The quarter-acre of tropical land piqued the interest of Bp. David whose expertise in botany drew his attention to banana, coconut, durian and papaya fruit plants as well as an amazing nutmeg tree, corpse flower, and agloenema plants growing wild.

Fr. Juris, along with the wardens of his church and the owner of the home next to the plot of land gathered inside for a conversation about the history of the Anglican church in Indonesia, the current state of affairs, and the bright future ahead. Each were happy to express their relief that they had found the support of the APA.

The early afternoon was spent visiting the famous statue of Jesus that overlooks Manado (the second largest statue of Jesus in the continent of Asia) as well as visiting the site where the church had previously

met, a small, rented storefront location. After an hour or two of rest, Fr. Juris and his family met up again with Bp. David and Fr. Paul for a meal with two of the candidates who would be confirmed the next morning. These were Willy (Fr. Juris 'cousin) and his wife Wulanytha.

The Christian influence in Manado was evident as once again pork was on the menu. This time the group shared a special treat, deep-fried pig head! While many restaurants cater to Muslims by being sure their menu is completely halal, others are proud to throw off the restriction and cater to the non-Muslim community.

After a walk around Manado with Fr. Juris 'family, witnessing the very lively "food truck" small business scene with dozens of modified Volkswagen vans preparing food and drinks of every kind, the team retired for the night to rest for the upcoming services on Sunday morning.

Sunday October 28, 2025

Sunday morning opened with sunshine as preparations for baptism, confirmation, and Holy Eucharist were completed and the team journeyed for just over an hour to a special chapel that had been rented for the day's festivity. Somewhere above the town of Tomohon an expansive property owned by one of the richest men in Indonesia has played host to a number of special events for those who gain permission from the property's manager. Fr. Juris secured the site weeks beforehand and as the sunshine turned to rain, the Bishop and Fr. Paul found themselves inside the open-air chapel with a warm and dry congregation whose eagerness to meet their new bishop was palpable. As local customs invariably make for variation in liturgical practice, the congregation was also eager to learn just how traditional catholic Anglicans of the APA celebrate Holy Communion.

A resistant one year old girl was baptized, five grateful adults were confirmed, and all rejoiced at the chance to participate in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood as their new Bishop stood *in persona Christi*, feeding his flock with Word and Sacrament. The congregation had never been visited by their own bishop before, and so it was an emotional and joyous occasion for the almost sixty people present.

The service was followed by a reception meal at a nearby restaurant and pavilion where many different local dishes of chicken, shrimp, tuna, and beef were served along with a superabundant supply of rice which is available at seemingly every meal. Live music is included with the price of a banquet like this one and so the lunching congregation was serenaded by a micro-phoned vocalist and her keyboard accompanist, interrupted only periodically by power outages which are common in the countryside.

On the way back to Manado, Fr. Juris and his family took Bp. David and Fr. Paul to a special nearby site where a volcanic crater lake plumed with hot sulfur steam. The geological phenomenon was

turned into a tourist spot where one could first of all pay a small fee to see the simmering lake and then take in a snack or two from the vendors. While the smell of bubbling sulfur doesn't usually stir up the appetite, a cup of coffee and some freshly fried bananas from the café nevertheless made the moment special. The hourlong drive back to the hotel left enough time to take an early evening and allow rest before another full day.

Monday, October 29, 2025

The last full day before beginning the return trip home was one of special significance consisting of two meetings which were each surprisingly fascinating. The first was a meeting with the Indonesian Bible Society whose headquarters for the region were located just a mile or so from downtown Manado.

The Indonesian Bible Society (which is a part of the global United Bible Society) plays an important role in Indonesia since the government has only allowed for one official version of the Bible to be published in each language across the nation. There is to be no Indonesian parallel to the English choice between KJV, NKJV, NIV, RSV, ESV, NASB, or any other translation. This limitation becomes understandable when one understands the unique challenge of this organization which strives to have one complete version for each of the more than 760 (yes... seven hundred and sixty) languages of the country. In the city of Manado itself there are eight commonly spoken languages including the language of the city of Manado. Mindbogglingly, it is not uncommon for each major city of Indonesia to have its own uniquely spoken tongue in addition to the national language as well as languages of different regions and people groups who reside there. The problem of translation would be entirely unwieldy if each of those languages in turn had multiple "versions." If even a few versions were allowed, the already enormous task of printing bibles for 760 languages would quickly turn into an impossible chore of printing thousands of unique editions.

At one meal in a bustling restaurant a few days later, Fr. Juris pointed out that he could hear four different languages being spoken at the surrounding tables, indicating that the room was filled with people from out of town. The waitress herself struggled to understand the local language of Manado and Fr. Juris would switch to Indonesian, a more universally understood (if not commonly used) language.

The Indonesian Bible Society holds political clout since it is the one organization given the responsibility of administering those translations and that distribution. It is essential therefore for Christian denominations to establish a relationship with the Indonesian Bible Society in order to be recognized as a legitimate church. Fr. Juris used to work for the Indonesian Bible Society and so his arranging a meeting for Bp. David and Fr. Paul with the administration in Manado was as easy for him as it was important for the newly formed foundation.

A fascinating conversation was shared with the group as they revealed how dangerous the work of distributing Bibles can be in a Muslim majority nation where the influence of militant and extremist Wahabi Islam was increasing. In addition, it was made clear that support for their operations came solely from contributions and that while many from around the world gave generously for the printing of bibles, administrative funds were always hard to come by. The bravery of the workers was evident though as they displayed a flinty determination to persevere regardless of the obstacles. A few photo's, prayers, and gifts later, the visit ended with a short tour of the society facility including the warehouse which was filled with boxes of bibles, many of which were picture and story books for children.

A lunch of stir-fried noodles sufficed to ready the group for another trip up the mountain past Tomohon towards the second meeting of the day which would be with Rabbi Yaakov Baruch. Arriving at the synagogue after an hour-long drive, the group parked amongst two buildings and a border wall made from light beige stones perfectly reminiscent of almost every building in Jerusalem, Israel. Indeed, as Rabbi Yaakov greeted the collared clergy, he himself was dressed in the commonly seen black suit and tie, white shirt and yarmulke of a normal rabbi. Within moments of the meeting, Rabbi Yaakov revealed that not only was the seemingly normal synagogue rare, but it was also in fact the only synagogue in the entire country of Indonesia, and he was therefore the sole rabbi in a nation of more than three hundred million people. There was a pause of disbelief followed by confirmation that indeed, this was true. Because of the rarity of this synagogue in a Muslim nation, Rabbi Yaakov had gained some renown as a significant person for ambassadors, politicians, religious figures, and others to meet.

Rabbi Yaakov brought Bp. David and Fr. Paul into the synagogue, opened the cabinet where the torah scrolls were kept, brought one out and invited the clergy to ascend with him to the place where he was accustomed to read to the congregation. He proceeded to read the first few verses of Genesis in the sacred language of Hebrew, following word by word with the traditional pointing tool called a "yad." Adjacent to the synagogue was a room the rabbi had developed into the Indonesia Holocaust Museum which contained special memorabilia from the second world war and a thorough printed explanation of the plight of the Jews in the middle of the last century.

A long conversation ensued over coffee in the square between the small buildings as the group was joined by Demmy and Liu, two parishioners who joined the special trip to enjoy the bishop's company as well as an American tourist who had also made a special solitary journey to see the synagogue and museum. With several photos taken, the group began the journey back to Manado. Later the next day, an article would appear in a local online news source, reporting about the meeting of Rabbi Yaakov with an Anglican bishop from America, the Right Reverend David Haines.

The evening closed with a family dinner shared with Fr. Juris, Christy and their boys as parishioners periodically stopped by to add gift upon gift to the soon to depart Americans. The evening closed with one final stop before retiring to the hotel – a visit to the durian fruit stand. Durian fruit is

famous around the world for its pungent aroma, and it is listed amongst the strangest and most challenging foods to eat. A comment that Fr. Paul had made earlier in the visit about giving it a try had not been forgotten by Fr. Juris and so, leaving Fr. Juris' boys out of the moment, the four adults stood around a durian stand wearing the customary plastic gloves provided by the vendor, eating the milky white cheese like textured fruit which smelled nearly identical to the sulfur steam emitted by the volcanic lake mentioned earlier! Fr. Paul reluctantly nibbled at the strangely sweet fruit while Bp. David munched away with abandon, only later regretting the presence of a lingering aftertaste and breath that reminded one of an oil refinery.

Tuesday, October 29, 2025

The five flight journey home began with farewells to Fr. Juris, as well as to church members Arthur, Demmy, and Liu who each made a special effort to see the two off. It had been a very fruitful initial visit to the new Indonesian Global Partner and the expectation of fruitful days of ministry ahead gave each one heart that the Lord had truly led each one to this day and to this new arrangement.

A Note about Food in Manado

Local culinary specialties are often a source of pride for people of any region and Manado, Indonesia is no exception. In this tropical region where seemingly anything can grow, a dizzying array of special flavors were worked into each dish including fresh lemongrass, clove, nutmeg, chili peppers and each table was customarily set with two or three special sauces - kecap manis (sweet soy sauce), serundang (toasted coconut flakes), cuka cabe (chili vinegar), or sambal (chili paste). Manado has become well known for its special pumpkin porridge called Tinutuan. Pumpkin puree, cassava, corn, rice, tofu, and fresh basil leaves are stewed together and served with a special fried corn fritter called Perkedel Jagung which is also unique to Manado. At one meal where this was served, it was followed with a quickly melting desert of shaved ice covered in condensed milk, chocolate sauce and red beans.

Of course, Indonesia is also known for coffee, but whereas the famous Sumatra and Java regions are far to the west, Fr. Juris' parishioners were particularly proud of their own Sulawesi beans which were, following Indonesian tradition, dark roasted to the extreme. Typically closed in the mornings and open late at night, coffee stands are everywhere in Manado, as are crazy coffee concoctions. Perhaps strangest amongst them was a local invention - avocado coffee. A taste for this creation was not acquired in the short visit, but Bishop David did break down and enjoy his first cup of coffee in decades. Indonesia can count this as a win.

