

“In remembrance of Me”

How Christ is honored by His followers

Friday night. Jasmine has just arrived from her workplace in the city. Gracious, sincere village neighbors greet Jasmine warmly at the home of her daughter and son-in-law. They take their places in a circle on the tika, a floor mat of woven reeds. Someone reaches to the top shelf of a closet and takes down a stack of photocopied, large-font Scripture portions. Jasmine readies her reading glasses and settles herself in a cross-legged position on the tika...

This regular gathering is an example of communities of faith in Jesus the Messiah that are springing up throughout Indonesia. These gatherings may look different from what we see in our own cultural settings, but Jesus is being made known; He is being honored!

... Someone prays an opening prayer for protection from demonic interference. Sharing proceeds around the circle as each person tells about the past week. The conversation is friendly and open. Then one of the leaders in the group begins a spontaneous prayer of praise, while someone else recites prayers from the Psalms. The selected Scripture reading for the night is distributed to those who can read. The first person to read opens with the main text of Exodus 34:6, followed by a traditional recited confessional state-



ment in Arabic, “In the name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate.” People take turns reading out loud, verse by verse, around the circle. The text is read a second and sometimes even a third time, so that it will be taken to heart. Some simple questions are asked for review and discussion.

Afterwards everyone in the circle prays for the others and for their nation. These prayers are different from ritual prayers in Arabic - Jasmine says emphatically - for they are offered in the name of THE MESSIAH, THEIR SAVIOR. After the prayers for one another, a time of relaxed fellowship begins with drinking tea and eating food from local crops.

Someone pours a common traditional drink, saying, “This is the blood of the Messiah,” then says, “We do this to remember Him and be refreshed. Christ gives us life!” Bread (not a traditional staple but now available in the area) is also broken in remembrance of Christ. After enjoying the fellowship until late night, someone closes in prayer, and the families go home. They meet together daily as extended households until the larger community gathers again... in remembrance of Him.

Prayer Requests:

Around the world Muslims who have encountered the Messiah have to find culturally appropriate ways to worship. Some have adopted worship styles and attitudes from other cultures while adapting it to their needs. Others have developed unique cultural expressions of their faith. The use of the Qur'an stand (above) for the Bible is a simple example of cultural adaptation.

▶ *Pray for former Muslims in your city, region, and country, that the beauty of local cultural expressions may be manifest in worship (songs, preaching and teaching styles and new ways of living which bring worship into the heart of daily experience).*

September 2, 2009

Day 12

