



A very busy semester

We have a new group of MA students, with only one from East Java. They are all either pastors or indigenous missionaries.

So far, we've been doing units on spiritual growth and missiology. The spiritual growth unit has some basic discipleship, but we have mostly discussed particular kinds of personal challenges in ministry, such as responding to loneliness, emotional ups-and down, difficulty and failure, "political" environments, and unrealistic expectations.

We also have a new group of doctoral students. They are all experienced college faculty and most have a Christian Education background. Their first unit was about the nature of Christian schooling, which they found quite easy. We are already talking about research topics.

One of my busiest tasks is supervising Masters theses from the previous cohort. One finished last semester, one finished earlier in November, and one is so close ... any day now. Another has finished but will need to do a major revision. That leaves me with two students who have not finished and others who have deferred to next year.

Most theses are projects; students find a significant need in their ministry and create a program to address it. Some of the topics so far have been:

- Training Sunday school teachers
- History of an indigenous mission
- Training church elders
- Training local church speakers
- Training kindergarten teachers

The students are all very capable and bright, but nearly all of them have trouble putting their thoughts into writing. Most also have challenges with the more formal kind of language used in a thesis. They can all use a word processor, but they all have difficulties with the more advanced features that they need for a thesis.

I am very fortunate to have an Indonesian co-instructor, Dr. Respati Adjipurwo.

Southeast Asian research network

I have been invited to join a research network. The main reason for the network seems to be that university accreditors expect academics to publish more international research. I recently edited a small book on how to publish articles in research journals. WU was also asked to do the ethical approval for another research project on how students see Chat GPT.

Congratulations!

Dr. Daniel Ginting is a member of the WU research ethics committee. Daniel was recently appointed full professor by the Indonesian government for his research in language teaching. He is a Dean at Ma Chung University in Malang, East Java. He is also the coordinator of the research network.

Looking for new Board members

Some of the existing WU Board members are retiring, and we need a new generation of younger people who can learn and try new things. Not much is expected of first-time board members: attend meetings, listen to the discussion, ask questions, learn as much as they can, and contribute their opinions and ideas. The main requirement is to grasp a vision of a Christian university.

Indonesia visit

You might know that I visited Indonesia in September. My main role was to visit Board members, students, and several other institutions in the research network.

I also visited two churches that I attended during the planting stage. Although small, both were still going very well and even had people that I knew from many years ago.

RMW