

OMC 25 “Reviving Faithful Indonesian Disciples” Recap: On the Pathway to Become a “High-Performing” Network

Chicago 8/31 to 9/3, 2018

As it always has been, God continued to show his glory and might in our midst at OMC 2018. It is hard to believe, but this year we celebrated God’s faithfulness in the 25th time FICA hosts TPM/OMC. This year, OMC was attended by 47 people, from 16 different states of which about 75% of them are current students in US universities. We had the privilege of having Dr. Bob Osburn of the Wilberforce Academy as well as Billy Mambrasar, a young social entrepreneur (Kitong Bisa) who is originally from Papua as our main speakers, along with Dr. Kurnia Foe and David Susanto ministering God’s word to us.

In this OMC, we reflected upon our current situation of FICA as a fellowship network in the US as well as the amazing development that has happened in the past few years in Indonesia. More than 25 years after the founding of FICA, we realized that in order for us to continue to see the next 25 years of impact of FICA, we need to focus on discipleship. We would like to continue to see Indonesian disciples who are faithful and strategic, making impact in their communities wherever they are.

Since 1985, FICA has wrestled with topics ranging from evangelism, Christian persecution, nation-building, to rural area and economic development. It is our intention to continue listening to God’s voice to what kinds of domain that God desires us to serve at. I believe that it is not a coincidence that God brought brilliant speakers for the last three years from Papua since OMC 2016: Ps. Jim Yost, Ps. Lipiyus Biniluk, as well as Billy Mambrasar this year. We have gained perspectives about Papua: grassroots missions, church, business and education, and thus able to put our minds together in coming up with possible strategic ideas to implement for the context of Papua. We are especially grateful for the new and continued friendships that are made with even more Papuan friends. The energy, sincerity, and passion that our Papuan friends are just infectious! The wisdom and the experience that they share among us is integral in helping us to understand the cultural context of how things work in Papua, especially since the traditional culture is deeply embedded in everyday life of Papuans. We look forward to continue to partner with IMAPA (Ikatan Mahasiswa Papua di Amerika) and continue to disciple one another.

We need to pass the torch from one generation to the next. Intentional discipleship is the Biblical prescription. Our Lord Jesus Christ spent the last 3 years of His live discipling 12 people. In this OMC, we have 4 main speakers that discipling us in the form of ideas and mentoring.

We continued our learning about discipleship through enterprises from OMC 2017 and aspire to create enterprises that quadruple bottom-line, as Dr. Osburn would call it: profit, employment, community development, and gospel advance. Dr. Osburn highlighted the opportunity FICA has as a highly-educated Christians, equipped with the same worldview, will create a high-

performing network. FICA, when its members banded together, have the resource and capability to undertake a global-level problem. Dr. Osburn helped us to think critically, analyze, and plan strategic moves to take steps to translate this aspiration into reality. Furthermore, Dr. Osburn also encouraged us to dream big, as big as the slavery abolishment that is portrayed in the life of William Wilberforce and his peers in the Clapham Community. Historically, God has used men and women of Christ to make a societal change in the public space. In the same way, Dr. Osburn envisions FICA, which according to him is one of its kind in terms of a longstanding, nation-based Christian organization that strives to make impact back to Indonesia.

In OMC this year, more bridges are being built too. FICA which for most of its existence has been predominantly organized by Chinese-Indonesians, have begun to create intentional and deep relationship with Papuan students in the US. This is a remarkable milestone. I personally see this as a unification of two opposing stigmas of rich vs poor, educated vs uneducated, stingy-competitiveness vs sharing, even straight vs curly hair of two Indonesian ethnic groups! It is rare to see Chinese-Indonesians and Papuans work closely, let alone to see it in a conference setting like OMC. This is a bridge that only God can build since the biggest reason that unites us is our love of Jesus Christ besides the fact that we all were born in Indonesia and speak Bahasa Indonesia. One prayer that we request in this regard is that all of us can truly learn to be humble and to continue cultivate friendship and partnerships, for the glory of Jesus Christ.

One major topic that we also learned this year is model and the ideas that motivates a social entrepreneurship. Billy Mambrasar shared his wealth of knowledge from his experience interacting with many other creative, rising entrepreneurs in Indonesia, many whom are adept to utilization of digital technology in supporting their missions. Many attendees were also introduced about the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for the first time. The UN SDG helped us participants to think systematically and be more aware of importance of sustainability in the wide array of issues regarding community development, thus targeting creation of enterprises more strategically.

Billy however is a unique fellow with such powerful life story of God's miracles sustaining his life, from Papua to Oxford; he is a kind of person who is critical about the status quo of Papuan education and economy of the local communities thus become highly motivated in helping to empower children to make a change in their society #evenyoucanmakeachange! He demonstrates to the young people in the audience about living a life for a mission, to dream big, and to work hard. His presence was truly inspirational and we all learned that Indonesian, Papuan boy like him is capable of accomplishing such work that today has received international recognition. Billy also highlighted important cultural lessons that intrigued us all. He pointed out that traditional culture of Papua deeply contributed to the intertwining spheres of church, government, and traditional rite which causes churches and denomination to become political. This is one of the things that we as Christians needs to continue examining by going back to the scripture, because Jesus calls us to love one another well, just as He and the Father are one (John 17:21). This ties to Dr. Osburn's notion: "the church is to be a visible example to

society how to organize its affairs and why it needs God”, in short, a showcase of the Kingdom (Ephesians 3:10).

Through Acts 8, Dr. Kurnia Foe took us to the story of how God used Philip to take a step faith and obedience to approach the Ethiopian eunuch and share the gospel to him and he believed! God really wants us to be a people who responds in immediacy, even with a moment notice and when we obey and go faithfully, God helps us. He is also the main reason for the ministry to bear fruit so that we praise and worship his name alone as we rejoice in the high and low times of ministry. God wants us to be content with what he has entrusted us but still be creative; the walk of faith and immediate obedience is much more important than all the preparation that we can do, just as we see God moves Moses, Joseph, Joshua, David, Nehemiah, Paul, Timothy, and all the godly leaders he has appointed in the Bible. He wants us to go and not to take too much baggage so that we are truly trusting God. David Susanto gracefully showed example of how even we can use short Uber rides as opportunity to share the Good News of the gospel.

We are now at a crossroad and currently still processing all the things we have learned from OMC 2018. One thing that we observe is that we have quite a resurgence of Indonesian students in many campuses in US major universities. This brings our attention in FICA and we are discerning whether we can revive or help mentor Indonesian campus fellowship leaders, make disciples and cast vision of building Indonesia starting here and now. At the same time, we continue to disciple friends who are looking to go home to Indonesia for good and help them to find connection with FICA alumni in Indonesia so they can continue the FICA's comprehensive kingdom building vision further along.

We are immensely thankful for every single individual who has helped to make this event possible. Thank you for your support through donations but most importantly for your prayer and encouragements. Thank you also to all the staffs who have worked hard in organizing the conference and all the attendees who have contributed through your presence and traveling far distances. Please continue to bring us in your prayer that we will remain steadfastly loving and serving one another and that we can persevere in laboring for the Kingdom. We would really love to hear from you if you have any thoughts and comments for us. See you and talk to you all soon, hopefully in OMC 2019!