

**Report on**

**Women Doing  
Theology 2009**

*'Transformation and Liberation'*

**14<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November, Jakarta**

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### **1. The highlights of my trip;**

- Experiencing a different culture
- Addressing key issues in feminist theology
- Being part of an intimate group of woman that explored faith and liturgy creatively and from a female perspective.

### **2. Did it meet my expectations?**

- It more than met my expectations. I had expected it to be more conference or seminar style but it was a fully engaging workshop.
- The Indonesian SCM were wonderful hosts and arranged anything that we needed or requested and were very friendly.

### **3. The difficulties I faced;**

- I didn't really face any difficulties. If anything I found it a struggle to stay focused for such long days when I wanted to go and explore. I probably could have used more free time.
- I did struggle a little with the exercises on the first day – not realising I held such a dualistic way of viewing spirit and body.

### **4. key decisions made, policies developed, ideas for future programs**

- We explored the idea of having men at future WDT workshops

### **5. How has attending the program changed my perspective on;**

#### **Australia?**

- It was interesting coming back into Australia and took a couple of weeks to adjust back into life.
- In Jakarta there was so much poverty, people would just sleep on the side of the road and everything was filthy and falling apart. On driving home from the airport in Australia it was like I had entered into a dream world where all things unpleasant had been taken away. It was almost like a spell had been cast and I was developing amnesia and being lulled into this false world where all was okay and poverty, disease and homelessness didn't exist. It didn't seem right. Even now I am surprised how little reminders there are to us living here that billions of people are living in a state of intense need.

### **My own life?**

- It has helped me to identify the power struggles that are occurring in my life, and in identifying them I can liberate myself from a power imbalance that causes me to be oppressed.
- A big impact the workshop had on my life was in awakening a passion for inter-religious dialogue. I spent a lot of time walking around talking to people and since the vast majority were Islamic, I had some very fascinating and enlightening inter-religious conversations.
- It has helped to focus what is important to me in life. What I want to dedicate my life to.

### **The movement?**

- My experience of the SCMs I encountered in Jakarta is that they are very active movements that are centred on different causes. They were living Christ for people by passionately supporting different causes from poverty to HIV/AIDS to refugees to women's liberation.
- It was very evident that they were members of the Student Christian MOVEMENT. They were very active in issues of social justice and it was inspiring.
- Their passion for these causes came because they were surrounded by these issues every day.
- I think perhaps because we aren't faced with these problems everywhere we turn we either forget that they exist or don't realise the gravity of the situation.
- I would like to see the ASCM become more actively involved in social justice issues.

### **6. What do I think ASCM can learn from my experience with respect to;**

#### **briefing and debriefing of future participants?**

- I think everything was done well in this regard.

#### **Our own programs and activities?**

- As previously mentioned, I feel that the ASCM would benefit by becoming more actively involved in supporting social justice issues/ causes.

### **7. What have you already/are you now able to offer ASCM in;**

#### **Your home state?**

- Will begin work as a schools contact person.
- Have

**Other branches, states and National projects?**

- Hope to liaise with other states in finding common activities/causes that all states can participate in to present a united ASCM front.

**Other bodies (e.g. churches, ecumenical bodies, social justice groups?)**

- I am entering into ministry formation in the Anglican Church this year and know that due to my experience in the WDT 2009 workshop I shall never forget to live my passion for inter-religious dialogue and shall never forget to both fight for and raise awareness of social justice.