

Working in a Muslim Country

Johan van der Stok
March 1974
Indonesia



Photo date and location unknown

This land is 90 percent Muslim (out of a population of 130 million), eight percent Christian, and two percent Buddhist, Confucianist, and Hindu. It is a real challenge to work here, in the fifth largest nation in the world. I am teaching English in Jakarta. Everybody likes to learn English. Even small boys on the street say to me, "Good morning, sir!" even if it is in the afternoon or evening. But the intention to learn English you will find everywhere.

With religion, it is more difficult, especially after the attempted Communist coup of 1966. The Muslims are strong Muslims and think that their idea is the only good one, received straight from God by Mohammed. But by making friends with them I can really come close to them.

Money is the biggest problem here. Many are without a job; so are the boys and I. By teaching English I receive some money, but not enough. If there is any idea you are using, I would like to know about it. I had to scrape together all the money I had to get the precious Way of the World. I would like to sell them so we can get more customers and get people interested in our work all over the world.

Great strength and love to you from all of us here in Indonesia.