

Br Charlie Hogg's visit to Indonesia 30 Jan to 10 Feb 2014

Br Charlie Hogg, National Coordinator of Brahma Kumaris Australia arrived in Bali on 30 Jan. and was met by Br Frank Wilson, who looks after four centres in Bali and Sr Mona. They went straight to Bedugal which is in the mountains and where one of the BKs has a small place used for retreats. From there they drove to the other side of the island to the capital Singaraja. There is a lovely centre there where Sr Oka, a mother, lives. There was an evening class then the next morning there was a programme at Ganesha University for 200 staff and students on "Youth for Tomorrow".



To open the programme a few BKs did some beautiful Balinese dancing. There were some excellent questions from the students and each time after a question was asked the audience clapped; then they also clapped for each answer. Afterwards Charlie spent 45 minutes taking photos with virtually everyone who came to the programme. With a camera in every phone, everyone wanted a photo!

Charlie then returned to Gianyar centre on Friday 31 January, where Br Frank stays. The following day there were classes for BKs in Ubud and Mengwi centres. The next day they had an all-day retreat in the 'House of Masks and Puppets' which is a huge complex of classic Balinese buildings set in the lush tropical jungle with a very golden aged feeling. BKs got together from all four centres and over 100 attended.





On Charlie's final morning in Bali there was a programme in Balai Badai, an auditorium in Gianyar for 700 people who were mainly students. It was a beautifully produced event. A Government official from the Health Department gave a very straight talk about health, drugs, sex and AIDS. Charlie then spoke about spiritual health. Afterwards one of Indonesia's top young pop singers sang a few beautiful songs with deep lyrics. Many years ago he had attended a BK centre and all the rest of his family are BKs.



Charlie then flew to Jakarta. Arriving late, he was picked up by Sr Helen and they went straight to a programme for close contacts of the centre. He did a quick change in the bathroom and then had a wonderful discussion about Compassion. There were people from all religious backgrounds, which is a feature of Indonesia. The current population are mainly Muslim and there is a real openness in the majority. Charlie then stayed at the centre in South Jakarta where Sr Mala is based. Mala had just arrived back in Jakarta from Melbourne a few days earlier.

The next day a group who deliver Values Education all over Indonesia came to the centre. They had a very deep discussion about Spirituality and Virtues as they are studying the books written by BK Denise Lawrence. That evening there was a programme in a church for around 150 people on "Understanding the Self and Ego". The priest, Father Romo, had attended the Inner Peace Inner Power retreat in Mount Abu last November and loved it.

On Charlie's last day in Jakarta he went to the other side of the city for a programme with the Sindhi community. Around 110 people attended a programme at the Universal School. Once again there was a very vibrant Q&A session. He then returned to the main centre for an interview for Kompas, the main newspaper in Indonesia. He was scheduled to stay in Sunter with Helen in the north of Jakarta but the centre was flooded for the second time in two weeks so it was not possible. Helen was very light about it and just got on with things. For the last two years on 18 January the centre has flooded. She had sent a photo of herself, knee deep in water in the classroom but she was still smiling.

The next day Charlie flew back to Bali and to the Denpasar centre where Sr Janaki is based. It is a huge and beautiful centre with around 150 regular students. There was a lovely public programme at the centre for around 200 people on "Creating Healthy Relationships".

Throughout the 10 day visit there were also many sessions with the BK family.

12 February 2014