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Equipping Students for Listening Across Difference

Part II Findings & Discussion

IAPCHE 2017

The Findings...



Hospitality

Differences

Humility

Listening Across

Learning

Difference: “how strange I am”

I have never felt like such a complete foreigner as I have here. I don't speak the language, I dress even more differently. I'm not used to the food, and I'm white. Many people here have been extremely willing to give me grace on these issues but occasionally I am reminded just how strange I am in comparison to these people. Specifically, people seem to have a strange obsession with white skinned people, which has become apparent by the swarms of people asking for pictures...(LS)

Belonging & Strangers in a Strange Land...



Daily reminders of not belonging (MQ)

Cultural Difference

- Cultural differences...are a dose of truth for our life. They open our eye and take us a bit further away from ignorance. Cultural differences can help us become less concentrated on ourselves and let us see the world from someone else's perspective. (NH)
- Seeing all the different people living so harmoniously was rather breathtaking. ...I felt as though God was saying, "Hey! All my people are your siblings. Love them!" (HLJ)

The Many Faces of Hospitality

4/10 CREATE projects



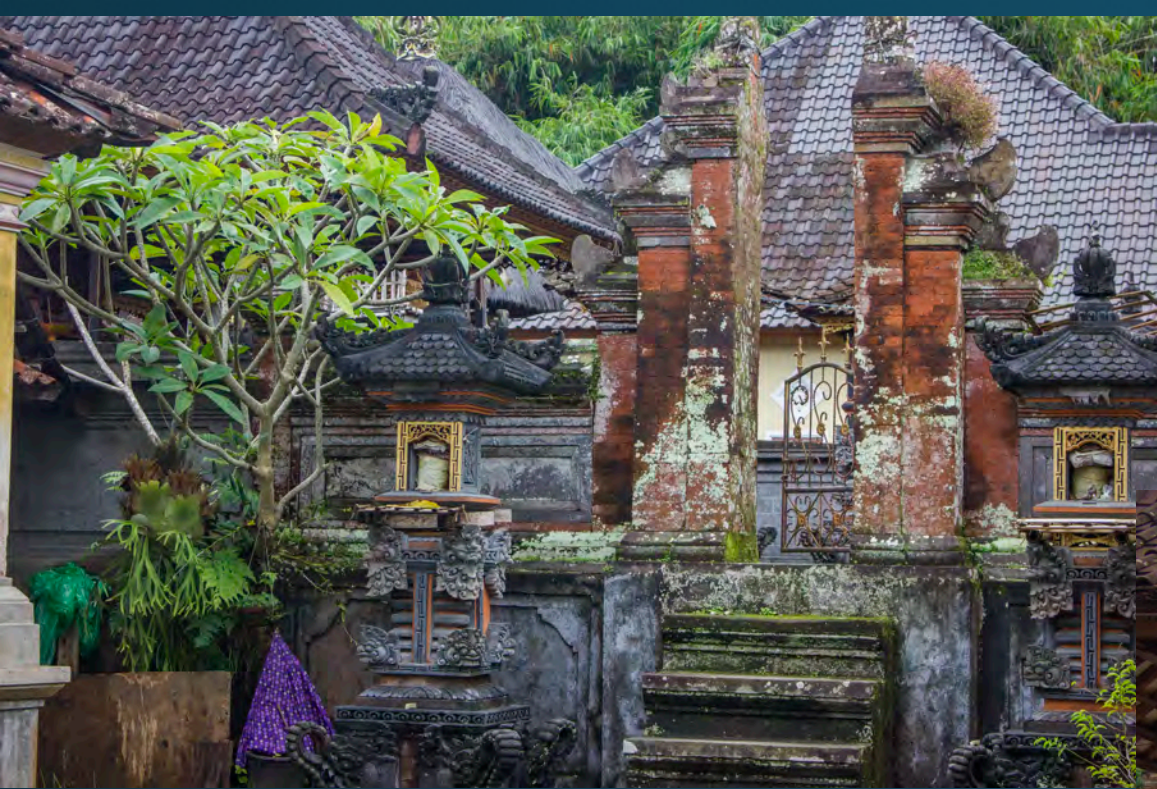
*This culture is amazing because of the people who live there.
They've treated me and our group
with **overwhelming warmth and hospitality**
and for that I'm thankful (LS)*



Welcomed into homes, schools, & sacred spaces...
with people, food, music, dance, and visual arts
as signals of hospitality



Home of OHD contemporary Art Museum Owner



Family
Compound
North of
Ubud, Bali

*The first word
that comes to
mind is people.
The people here
have been such a
blessing. (BM)*



Home of Business
CEO & Foundation
President

CREATE project: Hospitality

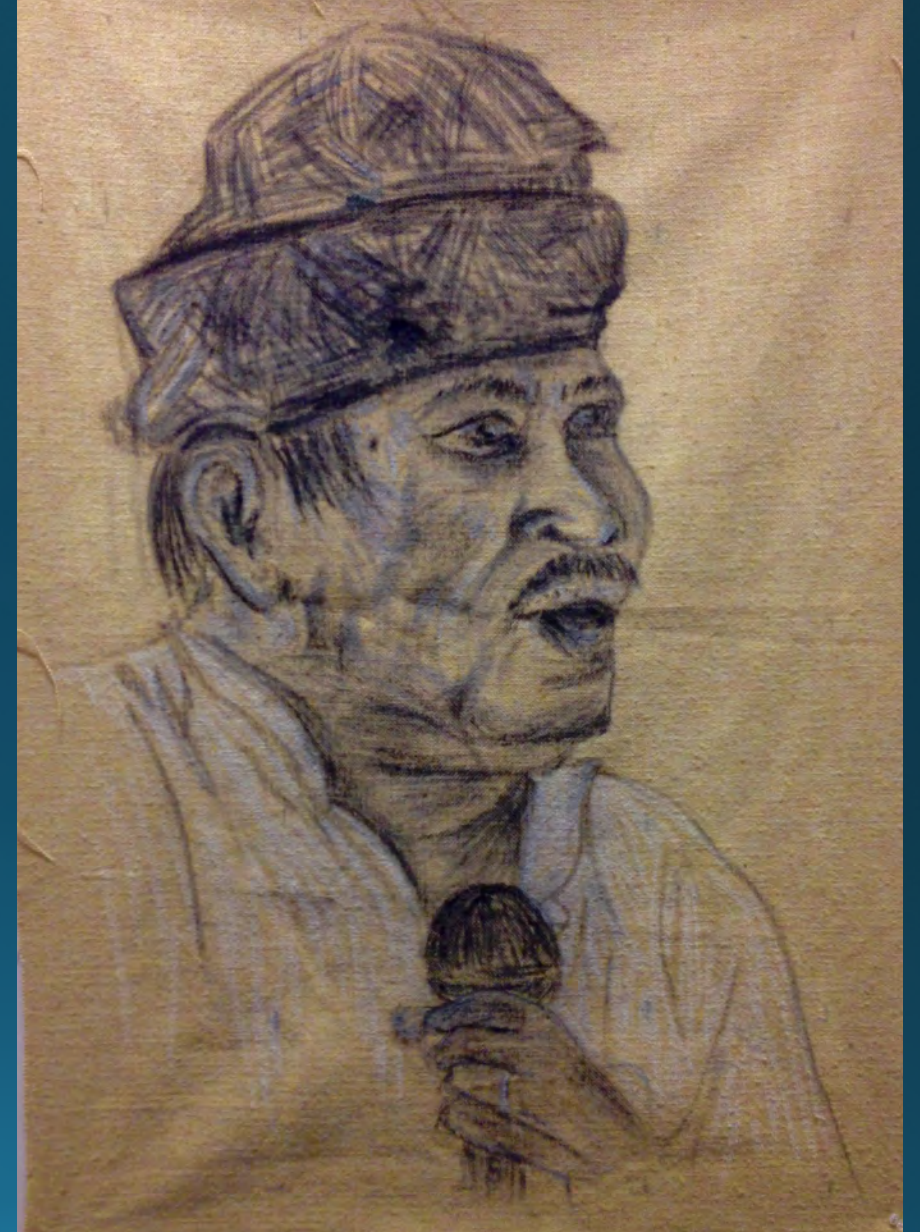
*David Smith comments that "all of us have experienced the difference between homes where we are merely greeted with careful measured civility and those in which we are **genuinely accepted**" (117). Time and time again, the Calvin students felt warmly welcomed by Indonesian individuals, rather than simple tolerance. **Hospitality was a universal language that penetrated differences in religion and culture....***

*These **continual acts of hospitality** accumulated and made an impression on this group of artists.*

Hospitality & Listening Fatigue

...it forced these artists to question the dynamics of giving and receiving hospitality in their local and global communities

The call for Christians to display genuine acceptance through hospitality is particularly weighty. Jesus claimed that one of the greatest commandments is to love one's neighbor, and hospitality is a concrete way in which love can be given and received.



Hospitality translates into neighborliness. In other words, genuine welcome and care leads to the birth of relationships, which create emotional ties that remain even when the guest has returned home.



Indonesia... powerful reminder of the universal need for neighborliness in this broken world,

Lived out hospitality equals global community.

It helps to break down the social injustice of independence that has been so entrenched within Western society.

Acts of hospitality, whether large or small, foster interdependence that can lead to world-wide flourishing (MQ Field Notes). ...Smith challenges his readers to practice hospitality: "**set about being a neighbor even across religious, ethnic, cultural, and political boundaries**" (68).



Hospitality
crosses
difference

Hospitality
as Justice

Welcome from those with differing beliefs



*While we were at the mosque a young girl approached me. She was Muslim and spoke almost no English....I realized she was deaf and had been reading my lips. We spoke for about five minutes... thinking about this encounter brings tears to my eyes. I received such a blessing from this young girl. **I was an outsider, a stranger.... I speak no Bahasa...I am a white Christian... And yet she wasn't offended that we were treating her place of worship like a tourist spot. Instead, she was joyful to meet me and practice the little English she knew.***

She opened my eyes to what it means to be a stranger but also how to treat those who are strangers in my own culture.

We live on opposite sides of the world and yet, despite our cultural differences, brought joy and laughter to each other.

She blessed my life. I wish I knew her name. But I will always remember her as the girl in the orange sweater. (BM)

Listening to messages of Hospitality counters fearful messages about difference

CREATE project: Playground Bully

During our...stay in Indonesia, a café fell victim to an ISIS attack.... Quick to notify our families back in North America that we were safe, we learned that the North American media was already at work, escalating fear....

The event was not nearly as destructive as the media portrayed.

By comparison, the Indonesian media worked to provide honest coverage which diminished the spread of terror.



CREATE Project: Playground Bully



*As children and products of our own culture, very familiar to the effects of 911 and the perpetuated hatred and fear toward Muslims, **we were often surprised by the genuine smiles and kindness shown by the Muslim population of Indonesia.** Each of us can recount a moment when love was expressed through a variety of welcoming gestures.*

*When the headlines read, "A new generation of terrorists graduates in Indonesia's heartland" **the human value and significance of the people we met was lost to a terror claim.***

God
speaks into
fear in
surprising
ways

WELCOME
DELEGATES FROM
CALVIN COLLEGE, MICHIGAN
TO
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM INDONESIA

According to Yenny Wahid (Indonesian Islamic activist & politician), “...to be a good Muslim we don’t have to accept recipes ...handed out by some radicals...Archipelago Islam puts an emphasis on moderation, on tolerance, on protecting minority rights...a life of harmony” (Playground Bully)

Jakarta
attack and
welcome
from Islam
University



*The staff & students of Universitas Islam Indonesia **not only displayed evidence hospitality by welcoming...Christian students...but also by being permanent hosts of an ancient Hindu temple within their campus***
(JP field notes)



Hospitality: cultural-historical

*Terror cannot win-
only mutual understanding can win*
(Rector Presentation, Universitas Islam)

*What was different when we gathered for that last photo... our guides joined in, they no longer were our tour guides, but were **our friends** ...people were being goofy... And it was in this joking around I felt comfortable and un-touristy because we just had fun being together...**being a tourist is when you focus...on "seeing" places and having "experiences", but once you put the emphasis on people and real relationships, you cease being a tourist. The difference is intimacy** (EC)*

Intimacy



Hospitality:
Listening as a
way to think
critically
about
community
care

A TALE OF TWO PAKS

"OUR COZINESS WITH THE SURROUNDING CULTURE
HAS MADE US SO BLIND TO ITS MANY EVILS
THAT, INSTEAD OF CALLING THEM INTO QUESTION
WE OFFER OUR OWN VERSION OF THEM."

- MIROSLAV VOLF



Hospitality: Listening to another's prompt to Care for Community right around us...

*Last year... we explored other injustices in our own backyard—
these Indonesian injustices brought back memories....*

*We went from site to site and one overlying theme persisted-- **community**.
Time after time we were told by prominent Indonesian business leaders that
the greatest injustice, in both America and Indonesia, revolved around
community.*

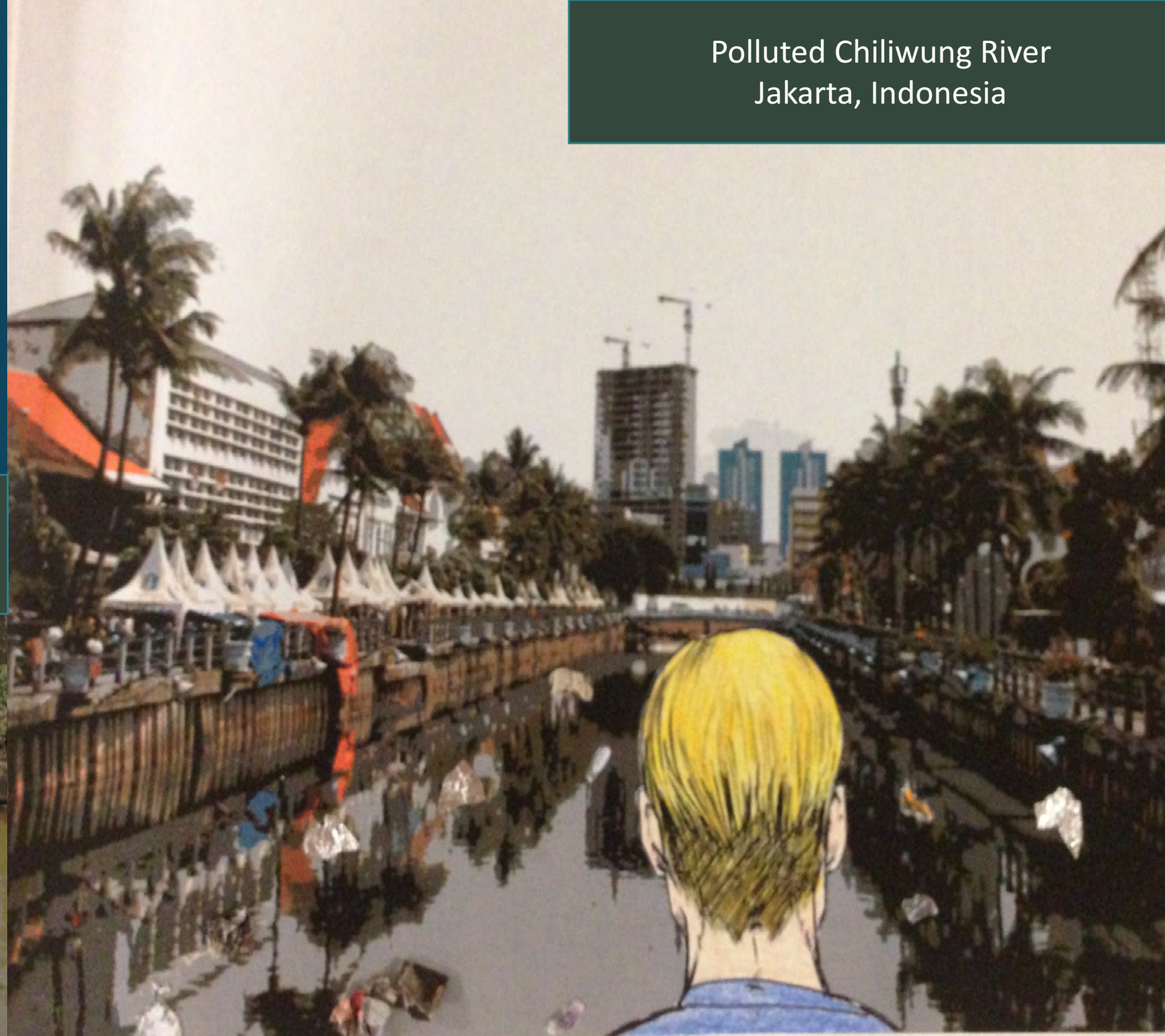
*Pak Tandean, the owner of a prosperous tile business ...
explained that the biggest social injustice was
not taking care of the community and those around us.*

We chose pictures that showed the issues we encountered in both countries ...we placed the characters in each scene and wrote their story...

Polluted Plaster Creek
Grand Rapids, MI



Polluted Chiliwung River
Jakarta, Indonesia



Where is my community?

Will listening to poorly resourced communities away from home help me look for them near home?



Listening to Hospitality as Action: Local- global-local learning

As we began developing our project, we wanted community to be the focus; however, we realized that it required a trip to Indonesia to realize we have both a community back home, and a global community ...we need to care for.

*.... In Learning from a Stranger, Smith ...
our neighbors...
live on a global scale.*

Open Listening: *By withholding my own judgments at times and places in Indonesia, I was more able to accept and take in the vast and amazing openness and hospitality of the Indonesian people, Christian or not. (HF)*

Critical Listening: *We believe that corrupt media should not outweigh the culture of Indonesia.... By provoking media in this satirical way, we hope to raise questions of how we are influenced by the news we hear and how its leverage can be utilized for good. (Playground Bully)*

Listening as Call: *Our calling as Christians is...to be more than community to the people we like...to open our eyes beyond our own comfort zone and culture and be community to everyone. (Tale of Two Paks)*

Listening for Action: *Acts of hospitality, whether large or small, foster interdependences that can lead to world-wide flourishing..... Indonesia was a powerful reminder of the universal need for neighborliness in this broken world and it forced these artists to question the dynamics of giving and receiving hospitality in their local and global communities (MQ field notes; Hospitality)*