Kalangi, Robert Albert (1929–1999)

ROBERT SIBY

Robert Siby, M.Div. (Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, USA), currently (2020) serves as Campus Ministry director and chaplain at Universitas Klabat. Prior to his current engagement, Siby served as church pastor for seven years. He worked in the area of Human Resources in a mining industry (1992-2008) before joining church ministry. He is married to Lovimaci (Kauwung) Siby who currently serves as secretary to the dean of Student Services Universitas Klabat. They have three children.

Robert Albert Kalangi was a leading Adventist figure in Indonesia as an ordained pastor, teacher, educator, and
Early Life, Education, and Marriage

Robert Albert Kalangi was born in Langowan, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, on April 9, 1929, to parents Nicolas Kalangi and Josephine Nayoan. He was the youngest of eight siblings, and also had seven step-siblings. He spent his childhood in the village of Langowan, North Sulawesi.

Kalangi attended Indonesian Union Seminary at Gadobangkong, Bandung, and graduated in 1952. Even though he was trained to be a Bible Instructor, when he continued his study at Philippine Union College (PUC), he majored in History, and received his B.A. in March 1958 and B.S. degree in 1959. After six years serving as a teacher, he returned to PUC to pursue his Master's in Education (1963-1965). There he wrote a thesis titled, “A Study of the Existing and Desired Supervisory Services of the Principals of Seventh-day Adventist Academies in the Philippines.”

In January 1973, supported by Mount Klabat College, Kalangi went to the United States to continue his doctoral work in Philosophy at the University of Nebraska. Graduating in May 1975, he earned his Ph.D. with a dissertation titled, “A Comparative Study of the Perception of the Principal’s Role as Held by Teachers and Principals in the Seventh-day Adventist Academies in the United States.”

Kalangi began his denominational service as a teacher at North Celebes Academy, Kawangkoan, North Sulawesi, for three years (1952–1955). While teaching at North Celebes Academy, he met Anna Walean, his student. They married in Java on August 23, 1952. Anna was a daughter of a Seventh-day Adventist minister. They had three children, Evangeline, Ronald, and Fredrik.

Career and Ministry

From North Sulawesi, Kalangi moved to Bandung Adventist Academy and taught there until April 1956, when he was sent to PUC, Manila, to study (1956-1969). Upon finishing his study at PUC, Manila, Kalangi served as a principal at several academies within Indonesia Union Mission. First, at North Sumatra Adventist Academy (1959-1961), then Bandung Adventist Academy (1961-1962), then North Celebes Academy (1962-1963). He then earned his Master’s degree at PUC. Around the time he was finishing his study, a new school established in Airmadidi, North Sulawesi, required Kalangi’s qualifications and expertise. Upon their return to Indonesia, the Kalangis accepted the call to become teachers and residence deans at Mount Klabat College (now Universitas Klabat).

In January 1973, supported by Mount Klabat College, Kalangi was sent to the United States to continue his doctoral study. Afterward he returned to Mount Klabat College and became the second president of the school. Kalangi was the first Indonesian president, succeeding Edward W. Higgins, an American. Kalangi served as the president of the school for four years (1975-1979). After that, in 1980, Kalangi was called to teach in the Southeast Asia Union College in Singapore, while Anna Kalangi served as the head of the registration office. In 1983, the Kalangi family moved back to the United States and lived in Michigan. At this time, Anna Kalangi was sent by Universitas Klabat to pursue her Master of Arts in Teaching at Andrews University (1983-1984).

When they returned to Indonesia, Kalangi taught at Universitas Klabat until his retirement in 1993. In 1990, Kalangi was appointed as a delegate to the 55th session of the General Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. During his service in Universitas Klabat, Kalangi was known as a disciplined person and was actively involved in evangelism.

Later Life

In his retirement, besides part-timing as the leader of the UNKLAB Research Center, Kalangi was active in speaking in seminars wherever he was invited. He liked to talk about family, youth problems, and Daniel and Revelation. On March 25, 1999, as Robert and Anna Kalangi were on the way home from a funeral service, they were involved in a car accident that took Robert’s life.

Sources


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