

“Apa itu! Pak Fil?”

**“What in the world is that, Mr. Phil?”**

It was a nice Sunday morning in Indonesia and I was riding my big purple motorcycle to my Sunday School class. We lived on the side of a volcano on the island of Java. I fastened Bible, chalk, posters, songs, Bible verses, and prizes on the rear seat of the motorcycle, then strapped a huge teaching board [2'x3'] around my body with 3 bungee cords.

In preparation for my class of little kids I had written the word “dosa” [*sin*] on my cheek in permanent magic marker.

Two miles down the road my motorcycle started wobbling wildly. I had a flat. Fortunately I had a Muslim friend who lived nearby less than a block away. She worked for us and had not yet become a Christian. Although she and I had spoken about Jesus and prayer and spiritual things a couple times, I had not yet taken the opportunity to explain salvation completely and clearly. I pushed my bike to her house and asked if I could leave it there in the yard.

When I took off my helmet she stared at my cheek and said, “Apa itu! Pak Fil?” [*“Why have you written the word “sin” on your face?”*]

What an opportunity! I told her I was going to teach the children in my class about 3 ways that don't remove sin and one way that does. I told her that many people in America who call themselves Christians believe that baptism will remove sin like this, and I licked my finger and rubbed my cheek. I asked her if the water had taken it away. She said “No.” Many Muslims think that Christians believe baptism will take a person to “sorga” [*heaven*].

Then I reminded her that Muslims believe that if they cover up their sin with good works they will have eternal life. She nodded. So I took a band-aid and covered up the word “dosa.” Did that remove sin? “No.”

Next I took out a clear plastic bottle of alcohol which had red food coloring in it and the word “Jesus' blood” written on the side. I dipped my finger in the alcohol and wiped it on my cheek. The “dosa” disappeared. Her big brown eyes widened as she perhaps for the first time understood the difference between how Christians and Muslims think about sin.

There is only one way to remove out debt of sin. Someone must pay with His blood and Muslims and Americans must believe that Jesus died for their sin.