

ABSTRACT

This thesis intends to examine the reasons behind the Javanese of Yogyakarta chose reformed Christianity as a platform for their social mobility and in what way the Reformed Christian church in Yogyakarta provided the Javanese with the opportunity to become professionals. Apart from that, this thesis examines the formation of the Javanese Reformed Christian Church (*Gereja Kristen Jawa*, GKJ). The period examined in this thesis starts in 1897, with the establishment of the medical fieldwork of the *zending* in Yogyakarta, until the 1959 when a church in Yogyakarta succeeded in bringing a chapter of the congregation to become a church in its own right.

This is a thesis in history, therefore, it uses historical research methods. Primary and secondary sources, both written and oral, were obtained from various institutions located in Yogyakarta and outside Yogyakarta. These institutions included various libraries in and outside Yogyakarta. The institutions included university libraries in Yogyakarta, archival sections and libraries of churches, library of private institutions, governmental archives, and interviews mainly with pastors and members of the GKJ church councils in Yogyakarta, Surakarta, Salatiga, and Purwodadi.

This study indicates that the Javanese benefited from the presence of the *Zending der Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland* (ZGKN) -Mission of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands- in Yogyakarta. Medical, educational, and evangelical missions provided social support for Javanese Reformed Christian. Many of them held modern professions, which enabled them to occupy middle and higher rank positions in church and society. In a way, because of these positions their social and economic ranks elevated. In another way, these professionals met the requirements to become members of church councils as well as pastors, so that reformed churches in Yogyakarta became self-governed. The changing times from the period of Dutch rule to the Indonesian Independence influenced the professional-formation among Javanese reformed Christians. The process began during the Dutch administration, hampered by the Japanese authorities, and grew again after the declaration of the Indonesian Independence. After the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence, the professional formation of the Javanese Christian Reformed benefited from the presence of other Indonesian Protestants in Yogyakarta as a consequence of the transfer of the Indonesian capital from Jakarta to Yogyakarta. Ecumenical cooperation was carried out to expand employment opportunities for Javanese Reformed Christian professionals.

Keywords: Javanese Reformed Christians, GKJ, Yogyakarta, social mobility, identity