



*A scene of shadow play "Revelation", the Catholic version of traditional Javanese Wayang. (From J. J. Fox ed. "Religion and Ritual", Archipelago Press 1998)*

Catholic missionary arrived at the East Indies in the 16th c. with Portuguese, whilst historians believe that some Christian communities had existed in Sumatra as early as in the 7th c. Although the primary interest of the Dutch who were active here since 17th c. was trade, the VOC was instructed to "uphold the religion of the state, maintain the sanctity of the church, ..." The freedom of religion guaranteed by Governor H.W. Daendels from the Napoleonic Batavia Republic in 1800s is maintained until today at least constitutionally in this Islam-majority country. Although religious conflict is troublesome in specific districts, it is common for us that Moslems, Christians, Buddhists and Hindus live peacefully together without prejudice.



*The panel inscribes the church's inauguration on the 30th January 1920 by the Governor-General J. P. Graaf van Limburg Sturum and cites, "Send your light and your truth to guide me. Let them lead me to the house of your sacred mountain (Psalm 43 -3)"*

The Zebaoth stands in the corner of Istana Bogor (former Buitenzoo Palace) which overlooks the Botanical Garden in Bogor, West Java. Although the interior as well as the exterior of Calvinists' church is simple and austere, a good solemn atmosphere is there. Few Dutch lives in the city now but the church is full of local faithfuls every Sunday.