

January. 5, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Harvest Baptist,

Another Christmas is gone and the new year is here. Christmas time in the village is the busiest time of the year for Bella and I. This year, Bella decided to have the children here do a nativity play. That was a huge undertaking, since she had to make all the costumes and the backdrop and write many of the songs and all the scripts. In the end it went fairly well (considering it was grade school kids in a tribe in the jungle.) We had 5 meetings over Christmas weekend and another 6 on New Year's weekend. It is good to be back to a more normal schedule.

Since we have been back, it has been really encouraging to see the people in the church functioning on their own. One of the men told me that while we were gone they had been getting together to go over the lessons for Saturday night and Sunday morning. They have also been teaching in 2 outreach areas. There are now five men who teach in church and in the outreach areas.

I asked you to pray for Bella's health. She has been up and down the last few months. She has a cough and very low energy. There is a lot of sickness in the village right now. She may have picked up the cold that is going around. She has been sick and run down for at least 3 weeks now. She is still managing to do what she needs to, but generally feels lousy.

We have been able to work pretty steadily on the translation work. We are about finished with the book of Matthew. After that, we have only two more short epistles to finish the New Testament. I have also been drafting the portions we want to add from the Old Testament. A huge answer to prayer is that we have a check scheduled. A translation checker who lives here in Indonesia has graciously agreed to come in March for a three week check. We hope to check around 2,000 verses at that time. That is around 25% of the New Testament.

The building for our children's program has still not been started. I believe we finally have a carpenter who will begin work next week. The building will be used for the children's program, Sunday school and will have an office for the church.

Thank you so much for your prayers for us and for the people here. Certainly we have been encouraged by how the believers here are growing. At the same time, it is heartbreaking to see some of the choices people make. Thank you very much for the \$100 that you sent to us in November and December. Thank you too for the Christmas gift.

Yours in Christ,

Paul and Bella

Please pray;

1. That we will continue to make good progress and do a good job translating the Bible in Sekadau.
2. Pray for our health.
3. Pray that God will continue to strengthen the believers here, and help them to grow in grace and knowledge of Christ.

The pictures are of the play, Paul speaking at Christmas (Yes in bare feet. No one here wears shoes inside.), the church eating together at Christmas time.

