

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Harvest Baptist,

The last time we wrote, we mentioned that our daughter Mandy, and her family, were coming here for a visit. They are working creative access in another country. If you don't know what that means, write and I will let you know.

Mandy grew up here, and this will likely be her last visit back before Bella and I leave. Their living conditions where they serve are more difficult than ours here. Her kids loved being here, playing on the playground, going to the river and learning to ride small motor bikes. Mandy doesn't speak Sekadau, but she does speak Gerai. She could follow what they were saying very well, and mostly they were able to follow what she was saying.

Mandy's husband wanted to go to Gerai on this trip so he and their family could see where Mandy grew up. Mandy was apprehensive because she didn't know how well she would remember the language. It turns out she had nothing to worry about. She lived until she was 14 years old in Gerai, and then made visits back there with us until she was 18. From the minute she arrived in Gerai, she really never stopped talking. She did much better than Bella and I.

I was able to speak to the church in Gerai on our second night there. It was difficult for me to switch to Gerai, but I am sure they understood what I was saying. I talked to them about having a relationship with God, and what that looks like. When I thought about this being my last time in Gerai, this is what I wanted to talk about. Mandy also gave a long testimony that night and sang a special number in the Gerai language.

During our time in Gerai we were able to go to the waterfall that is up in the hills behind Gerai. When we lived there, we had to hike for an hour and a half over very overgrown trails to get to the waterfall. It was still worth it. Now though, the government has put a road about halfway up to the waterfall. It was much easier to get to than it used to be.

Since Bella and I have been back, we have been working on getting the Bible translation here ready to print. I have finished all the book introductions and have been working on maps. Bella has been doing read throughs with folks. We distributed copies of the different books of the Bible to folks here. They have been reading them and making comments. Bella says it has been really encouraging to see that many of them are making the same corrections. That makes it clear that we do need to change those things. We feel like we need to finish things up by the beginning of July. At that point we will send the translation to a man in our mission who will get it set up to print.

There is a church wedding coming up soon in here. The folks here long ago got together and made a list of do's and don't's for a church wedding. The normal wedding here has many animistic ceremonies and other activities they believe are not honoring to God. There is a man here who is the head of the local animistic laws. He is insisting that our folks have to have an animistic ceremony and that they have to provide rice wine and rice whiskey for the party afterwards. We have no intention of doing these things, but the pressure can be really intense. In the end, we may have to pay fines for not going along with the "traditional" way of things.

Thank you very much for your prayers for us here. Right now it has been dry and very hot. I only mention that because the heat is much harder on us than it was when we were younger. We are mostly in good health though, and we are thankful for that.

Yours in Christ,

Paul and Bella

Please pray;

1. That we will get the translation here ready by July.
2. That the translation will clearly communicate to the folks here.
3. That we will have God's measure of health to be able to do the work here.
4. That the church will continue to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord.
5. That the wedding in here will be honoring to God.

The pictures are 1. Bella and I with Mandy's family minus David. 2. Together on a porch after they had invited us all over for a meal in Parobut. 3. Our granddaughter Sarala, with some friends 4. Some of us at the waterfall in Gerai.



