

Dear Brothers and sisters at Harvest Baptist Church,

As I write this, it is raining lightly. Summer time here is generally dry season. That doesn't mean it is dry, but just that we get less rain than usual. This year has been a little more dry than usual. Dry weather means it is hot. I don't enjoy going to bed and laying there sweating until it cools off enough to fall asleep. So, we welcome the rainy weather.

In August, Bella and I went up to the northern part of our Island, to Kuching, Malaysia, to have some medical check-ups. The check-ups went pretty well. All of Bella's tests and blood work were fine for someone her age. I went to the skin doctor and had some spots frozen. He said none of them were suspicious. The trip up to Kuching was kind of hard on us. The only way to get up there right now is by road. We had tickets in the back of the bus, so the ride was especially bumpy. It took a couple of days for our backs to stop hurting. We have found that life here isn't all that difficult for us, but the travel on really terrible roads can be kind of hard on us. While we were there, we celebrated our 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

This week one of the elders in the church here took his wife up to a nearby town to be examined. For as long as we have known them, she has had headaches and generally has felt lousy. They were hoping to get some answers and some help. As it turns out, the town they went to does not have good medical care. They had no equipment to scan her. Now the only choice they have is to go to somewhere where they can actually scan her head and neck. They plan to go to our regional capital, Pontianak, next week. Like most of the folks here, they live pretty much day to day. So Bella and I will be covering their medical expenses. Please do be praying for them. Their names are Damin and Martatina. He is one of four teachers here, so when he is gone, it puts more stress on the others.

The Sekadau Bible has been sent to a man who is getting it ready to be printed. He has other responsibilities as well, so we are told that this will take from 3-4 months. We understand the printers will also take 3-4 months to print the Bibles. We hope it won't be any longer than that. We have a tentative plan to distribute the Bibles in mid- April of 2024.

Both Bella and I continue to make and to revise lessons for the church here. Bella is working on lessons for the women and for the children. I am working on lessons for teaching in church. I am still making new lessons, but I need to soon transition to revising some of the older lessons. We are hoping that will all be done by mid- April as well. But truthfully it is a mountain of material to revise in that amount of time. Our plan is to leave all these lessons with the church.

Thank you for your prayers for us and for the people here. Please do pray for all of us that we would we steadfast immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord. Thank you very much for the \$100 that you sent to us in July and August.

Yours in Christ,

Paul and Bella

Please be praying:

1. That the Sekadau Bibles will be finished in time to be given out in April of '24'.
2. That we will continue to have health and strength to finish what needs to be done here
3. For Damin and Martatina that the doctors will be able to diagnose and treat her.
4. That the believers here will continue to grow in grace and understanding of the Lord.
5. That there would be opportunities to teach in the many villages near here that are without the Gospel.

The pictures are of Damin and Martatina. This picture was taken many years ago. I don't have a more recent one with both of them in it. The other picture is of Bella and me at the river walk in Kuching.

