

MIDKIFFS

TO INDONESIA

"DECLARE HIS PRAISE IN THE ISLANDS" - ISAIAH 42:12

January/February 2022 Prayer Letter

Sangat Sibuk (Very Busy)

Much has happened since we arrived on January 1. Our first week in the country was spent in quarantine in a hotel. We were not allowed to leave our room for any reason. All of our meals had to be dropped off outside of our room. Though we began to become a little stir crazy, we were able to get over most of our jetlag. Fortunately, we were able to leave early after getting negative COVID test results. Some fellow missionaries drove two hours to pick us up from the hotel.

We had already made arrangements to rent a house, but we were not able to move in immediately as there were some additional repairs and painting to be done. We were able to spend two weeks with a veteran missionary couple while we waited. After being in the country for three weeks, we were finally able to get moved into our house. We have had the blessing to attend and help with three different Indonesian churches since we have been here. It is a great opportunity to fellowship and to practice our Indonesian while we learn how nationals pastor local churches here.

Different Things

As you may imagine, many things in a foreign country are different. We have begun to get used to most of those different things. We had to learn how to drive on the opposite side of the road, and they drive pretty crazy compared to the States. The currency and different banking policies make things challenging. We are not able to open a bank account yet, and many businesses do not accept foreign credit or debit cards. It is possible to get a lot of similar food items and cooking supplies, but most of the brands are different. Most products imported from America or Europe are 2 or 3 times more expensive. Danielle has learned how to cook a whole chicken (after cutting off the head) and make broth from chicken feet. Our mornings start pretty early with the Muslim calls to prayer starting at 4:30 AM and a neighbor playing rousing Indonesian patriotic music starting at 6:00. We are not looking forward to Ramadan when they wake up at 3:00 AM.

We have just completed our first month of language school. Currently, I am in class every morning for four hours, and Danielle has 3-4 classes a week in the afternoon. We have learned many words and phrases to carry on some basic conversations. The learning program is designed to have us get much of our new vocabulary from speaking with Indonesian people. We have been able to have conversations with Indonesians almost every day. The language school is run by Christians and trains many mission workers. We have enjoyed interacting with some fellow believers.

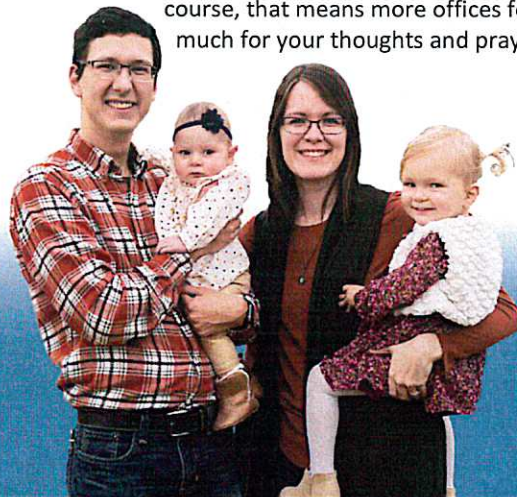
Prayer and Praises!

We praise the Lord that we have been able to settle in here rather easily with very little culture shock. God has given us grace dealing with the processes of visas and immigration. We have not yet been pulled over and questioned or extorted for money. Please pray with us that God will continue to help us as we learn and grow here. We have a special prayer request for our visas. We are in the process of changing from Social Visit visas to Student visas. Today, I found out that we will need to pay about \$3,000 (Rp 44,000,000) in cash for a new method they are using to process our visas. Of course, that means more offices for our paperwork to go through and more time to process. Thank you all so very much for your thoughts and prayers!

In Christ's Service,



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Missionary to Indonesia



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