

March 7, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Harvest Baptist Church,

Well, we are back in the village again. When we are in the States, that seems real and this life seems far away. But the minute we get back the reverse is true. In many ways it feels like we never left.

We have met with folks here a number of times since we have been back. We heard in detail about some of the issues that came up while we were gone. We lost the young man who was leading the youth group. So, right now, there is no youth group. Truthfully it has kind of waxed and waned during our years here. Before we left we repeatedly and strongly encouraged the guys here to be working together. For the most part they did that. But there were some problems that resulted in one of the guys doing what he felt was right, without talking to the rest of the guys. Those problems are yet to be resolved. The men did continue to teach the church here. They also taught some of the outreach areas. They even started teaching in an area we had not taught before. The women carried on the Sunday school program without a hitch. So, for the most part, most of the news here was good. Right now everyone is in the middle of rice harvesting. When they finish that, we will see what we can do to help with some of the problems.

We came back during a time of year that is sometimes rainy, and sometimes not. This time it has been rainy. Since our yard became overgrown while we were gone, after it was cut, the grass was pretty sparse. Our house is on a hill, with our generator shed down below us. The hill is very slick mud now. We go down and up VERY carefully. We also went walking today after a night long rain. There are two trails we can take to get to where we turn around. At first we took the one we thought would have less water on it. We were surprised that the water was not real high that way. So emboldened, we went home on the other trail. We found that trail to have a bit more water on it. The creeks were swollen well over their banks. The boards that went over them had moved downstream somewhat. We managed to cross the first creek on the boards, only getting wet up to our knees. Crossing the second creek, things didn't go as well. The new board crossing the creek had floated downstream a bit. So, I began to cross using the old boards. Half way across, the board broke and I fell into water over my head. I swam to the bank and retrieved the new board for Bella to cross. But Bella lost her balance half way across the creek, and she joined me in the water. We were not hurt, just amused. We walked the last 10 minutes home completely soaked.

As we planned, Bella and I are out in town this week. We thought we would be going out to get some medical work done. We decided not to do that now. We still needed to go out to town though to be able to buy some things that were broken when we got back. Also, our new internet system is not very fast, so we will be downloading things and writing letters while we are out in town.

We were not able to use the internet system we have been using for the last 10 years. We used to pay about \$175 a month for unlimited internet. But when we got back they said we were going to have to pay \$675 a month for the same service. It was very expensive to set up, but the monthly charges should be less than we have been paying. We have been using it for the last few days. It is MUCH slower than our last system, plus we are paying by the byte. That means we just can't download large files or surf the web. But we will be able to send and receive e-mails if they are not too large. And we have been able to send and receive from our translation program. That means I can get the notes from our consultant, and send back to him any changes we have made to passages. So, not perfect, but better than nothing.

We do want to thank you for your prayers for us and for the Sekadau people. As hard as it is to leave family and friends, it is good to be back. Thank you so much for the \$100 that you sent to us in January and February.

Yours in Christ,

Paul and Bella

A couple of pictures. The first is Bella at Changi Airport in Singapore. At this point we had been flying around 20 hours, and been without sleep for about 36. She looks pretty good for all that. The second picture was taken on our last walk around Mission Bay the day we left San Diego.





