

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Harvest Baptist,

Bella and I have been able to keep up with what is going on in the rest of the world in these last few months and again in these last few weeks. Our main prayer is that the Lord would work through these hard times to draw people to Himself. We have been praying for you as well. I know many of you have not been able to meet together with the folks from church. We know that must be hard.

The last time we wrote, Bella and I were sheltering in place here in the village we live in. We did that for a month. There were no covid cases in our village during that time. In fact there still have not been any. One man from here did die recently, but it turns out he died from T.B.. After we finished our month of sheltering in place we began to meet together with the church again. They decided to hold off celebrating Easter until we could attend. Our second week back we did celebrate Easter. I think we had one more week after that where we met together. Then the local authorities asked all the churches and mosques in our area to stop meeting together. They asked us to not meet together in groups larger than 20 people. So, for the last month that is what we have been doing.

In order to follow the official order, we decided to have church in different houses on Sunday to keep the numbers under 20. That turned out to be a good thing for the teachers here. Instead of having one person teaching on Sunday, we had pretty much all of our teachers leading one of the groups. It was a different feel than meeting all together, but it was nice. Bella and I met at our daughter's (Cori) house next door. There is a very large open room there, and it was perfect to have a meeting in. This last week one of the men got a text message from an official saying that it is okay for us to meet together again.

For Bella and I, this latest change didn't really affect our lives much. We continued to work on translation with our translation helpers. I continued to make lessons to teach on Sundays. I have been teaching the book of Revelation on Friday nights. I decided to also teach the same lesson in a different location on Saturday nights. That kept the groups small enough. As I said, to this point, there has been no covid in our village or in the closest villages down river from us.

Since the translation check, Bella and I have been working on the book of Daniel. I am finished with my part of that work. Since then I have drafted the books of 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude and Hebrews. In case you wonder what is hard for me to translate, look at some of the figurative language in Jude. In verses 12-13 they are compared to a number of things; trees that are doubly dead, raging waves of the sea churning up the foam of their shame. It took me quite a few attempts to figure out how to say that here. Most of our people have never seen the ocean, and none of them have ever seen a tree that died twice. Hebrews has also had a number of challenging places. One of my translation helpers came to the conclusion that Melchizedek was a ghost or spirit. At any rate, it has been interesting.

In our 40 years here in Indonesia, we have learned that one way to minimize the stress of doing what we do is to take breaks away from here. Normally we just go out to town for medical work or to shop. With the recent restrictions, we have not been able to leave the village. This has now been the longest time we have ever gone without taking a break. The Lord has been very gracious to us and we don't seem to be too bothered by the situation. I do need to have an operation on one of my toes, so we are hoping we will be able to fly to Malaysia sometime this year.

Thank you for your prayers for us. We know that God does answer prayer, and we have experienced God's care for us in many ways. Thank you too for your prayers for the people here. It has been good to see their growth even in the last few months. Thank you too for the \$100 that you sent to us in April and May. We couldn't be here without you.

Yours in Christ,

Paul and Bella

Prayer requests:

1. Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom to be able to translate His Word faithfully in a way that is understandable to the people here.
2. Pray that the Lord will continue to raise up leaders and servants in the church here.
3. Pray that we would be able to get out and get the medical work done that we need.
4. Pray for God's measure of health for us to be able to do what we need to do. In the last two months, Bella's back has seized up a few times when she got out of bed. She is learning what she can do, and what she shouldn't do.
5. Our daughter Mandy and family are still in India. Please pray that they will be able to move to Nepal where they hope to live and work.

The picture is of the church here celebrating Easter late.

