

Hello,

This is a little unusual for us. This is not our normal type of letter. I wanted to make you aware of some of what is going on here, and ask you to pray.

Bella and I are both working trying to finish up lessons for the church to use while we are gone. It is a big job and we are working overtime to finish it.

1. A young man in our village contracted rabies from a puppy who bit him. He is dying. The family hopes to bring him home to die here, but he may not last that long. The boy is one who attended our kids club for years. He is a really nice person. It is hard to think he is dying. For the last while, his family has been studying phase 1 chronological lessons for evangelism along with a number of other people in their area.
2. Apparently this same puppy went on quite a spree about 6 weeks ago. He bit a number of other people. The disease can lay dormant in a body for as long as two years. During that time, it is possible to get treatment and survive. But once symptoms begin to occur, the mortality rate is 100%. We are encouraging the ones who were bitten to go down to the city and get the treatment. Several of these people are ones who we are pretty close to. Bella and I have offered to pay for the treatments. If we didn't it would be out of reach for almost all of them. It costs around \$375 per person from what we understand.
3. The man who was not ordained as an elder had been actively doing all he can to destroy the church here. He uses every opportunity to try to draw people to have church with him. He has inserted himself in the rabies situation even though he doesn't have any normal connections with the ones who need help.
4. Bella and I are trying to figure out the logistics of our trip back to the States. We need to have a test for Covid. We plan to fly from Pontianak to Jakarta on Monday. So we need to get the test on Sunday for it to still be valid when we arrive in the U.S. on Tuesday. We are trying to find out if this is possible. So all our local connections are on hold until we get more information.

I told Bella tonight that we have never had this much stress heading out for home assignment. We really just want to be God's hands and feet here. We want to be as much of a blessing and help as we can. Please pray that we will be.

Thanks so much.

Paul

This is an update of our letter of yesterday. The young man died. We just got home from burying him. Now for the next several nights we will meet together to comfort the family.

As far as we know there are about 6 people who need to get the rabies shots. Bella and I will pay for them. But we still have to convince some of them that they need to get the shots. It means a trip that could be as long as two days. It is harvest time in their rice fields now. Some of them may not want to get the shots. So, as I say, we need to try to convince them that they need to do this.

Thank you for your prayers for us.

Paul