

Dec. 7, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Harvest Baptist Church,

The Christmas season is upon us. I know many of you get pretty tired of hearing Christmas music. While we are living in Indonesia, we only hear it when we play it ourselves. So, we really enjoy being enveloped by the music and the season.

We plan to spend Christmas in Texas, splitting time between the homes of three of our children. All of our children and grandchildren should be together for Christmas. We are really hoping that will include our two son-in-laws as well. For the last several months Liana's husband has not been living with them. This is not by choice. We are praying that the situation that is keeping them apart will be resolved before Christmas. I know it has been VERY stressful for their family, and for the rest of our family as well.

Recently we received a report of meetings held in Indonesia. The meetings were mostly concerning the leadership of the tribal churches our mission has planted in the last 40 years. As in most church organizations, there are many Godly people, and others who seem to have their focus on other things. During the meetings there were some who were demanding more money from the missionaries. But in the midst of the discussions, one man got up and reminded the group that God wants the churches to mature, and that mature churches can't be focused on money. The man who said this is Rekan, one of the elders from Gerai. It was encouraging to me that one of the men we worked with for years seems to have his focus on the things that matter. As the apostle John said; **"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."**

We do hope you have a blessed Christmas. For much of the country, the meaning of Christmas has been completely lost. But for us who know the Lord, we know too that this season celebrates God's greatest gift to the people of this world. As the song says, the meaning of this season is truly God sending His son so that God and sinners can be reconciled.

We want to thank you for the \$100 that you sent to us in November. We are very aware that as we serve God, He provides for us primarily through others who love Him.

Yours in Christ,

Paul and Bella

The first picture is of Rekan, taken some years ago in Gerai. The second is Bella in front of Christmas lights in Riverside, CA.



