

INDONESIA

“...*redeeming the time.*”

Heath & Hira Flanagan
August-September-October

Dear Family and Friends,

I just glanced over the first newsletter I sent in July. All I could think was, “Wow! A lot has happened since then!”

First, our family is doing very well. Hira has been helping her parents in the family business. She’s taken a few trips to Taiwan and China. Hira has been a tremendous support to me. She’s taken good care of me, now that I’m the one in a foreign world. The kids are doing better and better in school. They’ve all adjusted well and are communicating in the Indonesian language. God has kept all of us safe and we are grateful for the ways He’s watched over us.

When we first came to Indonesia, I quickly grew impatient. I was ready to do God’s work and expected things to happen right away. Growing impatient can lead to frustration. Through that time, I was reminded of a Sister who prayed for me at Parkview. Before we left, she prayed that God would give us patience; that we would know that God had a purpose for us, whether it *seemed* this way to us or not.

I was looking for a job with one of the private Christian schools when we came here. I also needed God’s direction in regards to the church of Indonesia. As I gave God complete control, the doors opened. I’ve been working for the Daniel Creative School (DCS) since August. The students are required to learn the NKJV Bible from beginning to end between 3rd and 6th grade. My job is to prepare the lesson plans everyday. So far, we’ve gone from the Gospel of John to Acts to Colossians. By December, the rest of 3rd grade will be completed, which will take the students through most of Paul’s letters. At the end of each section, I visit the classrooms to answer questions – very tough questions like, “Do we serve three Gods?” or “How was Jesus alive before He was born?” These questions are difficult for a 3rd grader, especially when we discuss it in their second language.

I’m also on staff at a large church in Semarang. This church is led by Pastor Subekti. My role is to help one of the church ministries, the International English Church. The members of our congregation come from countries like the U.S., Philippines, Korea, China, and Indonesia. Right now we have 40 people in attendance each Sunday. I preach 3 Sundays each month. I also teach the Wednesday Cell Group. The cell group has grown from 8 people to about 18. Soon we will need to open another home.

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We've been involved in the street ministry to the poor and homeless people of the city. Their cell groups meet every Saturday and Sunday night. The person in charge of the street ministry is Yoksan. He is a great man of God. He and his wife also run two orphanages: one in Semarang and one on the island of Sumatra. We've gone with Yoksan to the Semarang orphanage for worship and Bible study with the kids. He's done all the translating for us at the street ministry cell groups and the orphanage.

So, in the last couple months, we've gone from impatience and not having enough to do, to peace and having more than enough to do. Truly the fields are plentiful and are ripe for harvest! We've learned to make the absolute most of every opportunity. As Paul says in Colossians 4:5, we must redeem the time!

Parkview, you are a praying church and we thank God for it! Please stand in intercession for Indonesia:

1. That the name of Jesus will be glorified in Indonesia
2. That God will continue to open doors for His name's sake
3. That the bondages of sin and evil will be broken in Jesus' name
4. That the English church will grow and reach the lost
5. That God will protect the children of orphanages that they grow in the purpose He has for them.

I look forward to the day I can share with you, face to face, all that God is doing here. It is incredible!

Your Partners in the Church of Indonesia,

Heath and Hira.

PS. I have an update. God is beginning to stir the hearts of teachers at DCS. At a seminar just a few weeks ago, we spoke about "A Heart That Attracts God." At the conclusion of the seminar, 20 teachers requested prayer for a renewed heart for the Lord.

God is also doing great things in the students' lives. At the conclusion of the Gospel of John study, 20 students, as well as 1 teacher, accepted Christ into their hearts.

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