



Update from Craig and Christa Hollander

DECEMBER 2020

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you all well. Here's an update on some of the things going on here lately. A large part of our ministry this year has been flying for regional medical needs, with over 220 patients and caretakers taken to the hospital and almost 20,000 pounds of medical cargo so far, including Covid-19 test kits. We've also taken around 200,000 pounds of construction supplies into a mountain village called Long Sule (Su-lay) to build a health clinic. Cement, rebar, gasoline, tiles, plywood, roofing, pipes, hardware, tools, doors, windows.... Almost everything they need for the project must be flown in, because there is no road going in or out of the village. MAF has also brought in a lot of food (mostly rice, sugar, and ramen noodles) into Long Sule to help keep them fed until the next rice harvest.

Flight Training

I've been quite busy as a flight instructor this year, with four pilots all needing their Kodiak checkouts. This process usually takes around 50-70 hours of flight time to make the transition from a Cessna 206 before a new pilot is qualified to fly solo in the Kodiak.

Family News

We can all attest that this year has been one for the records. A lot of things have happened, but time hasn't seemed to move forward. I think the biggest event was flying to Jakarta in July to renew our passports.



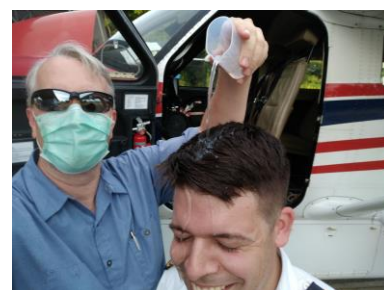
Due to Covid-19, Indonesia, like many other countries, hadn't been processing new work visas. Since the start of the school year on September 3rd, we have only had one teacher for the 1st through 12th grades. The kids have been going to school half days. 4th-12th grades go in the morning and 1st-3rd go in the afternoon. Math, science, and language arts are done at school and other classes are done at home. Just in the last week however our other teacher arrived in country and is currently following a mandatory 2-week quarantine. Plans are that school will go back to full days starting Dec 7,



Village and airstrip of Long Sule



Cargo for Long Sule



Kodiak Solo baptism in the Age of Covid-19

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

Covid-19 permitting. Faith is a senior this year and Sean is a freshman. Since there aren't any other high schoolers and there isn't a teacher for them, they are technically homeschooling but are going to the school each morning with everyone else. Mercy is in 6th grade and is part of the regular school.

September was interesting. One day we had a spitting cobra in the hangar, and two weeks later our house partially flooded when 15 inches of rain fell in one night!



Covid-19 Update

When the virus first broke out in Indonesia, there were a lot of travel restrictions and we saw a dramatic reduction in our flight hours. We are still flying mostly cargo and medevacs, but our flying is up 250% since March. There are protocols to follow anytime we transport passengers in MAF aircraft. Although the number of new cases this last week has gone up quite a bit, there have still been under 600 confirmed cases in Tarakan so far, less than 1% of our island's population.

Prayer Requests and Praises

Our biggest request the last several months has been visas. Several families, including our other teacher, had been waiting a long time for Indonesia to begin processing immigration requests. Thankfully in the last few weeks those visas have been granted and the families are beginning to make their way here. They will need to quarantine for 2 weeks but they are glad they are able head back this way.

There have been many times this year when all I (Christa) can do is lean into the fact that, while I don't know where life might be headed, God does. One song that has been very encouraging to me is "You Already Know" by JJ Heller. I know it is on YouTube and Spotify. I hope you can listen to it and be encouraged, too.

This fall marks 17 years since our arrival in Tarakan. Enclosed you will find a letter from MAF's president explaining a financial support increase for 2020. We are happy to say that because of you all we have already met that goal. **Thank you all very much for your faithful prayers and financial support during this crazy year.**

Craig and Christa Hollander