



## Update from Craig and Christa Hollander July 2021

Greetings from California AND Indonesia!

On June 15, Faith and I (Christa) landed at San Francisco International Airport. We came back to help Faith begin her transition back to the US after graduating from high school in May. In mid-July, she will be attending a two-week Reentry Seminar for TCKs (third culture kids) who have grown up overseas and are transitioning back to their passport country after high school. The seminar is put on by the Narramore Christian Foundation and will be held on the campus of Biola University in Southern California. Faith is required to be fully vaccinated before the start of the seminar. This meant that we had to come back to the U.S. a month before it started. We are staying with Craig's parents in Ripon, CA, and have been laying low since we arrived, venturing out only when necessary. While we wait for the seminar, we are trying to work on the myriad of things needed to get Faith established in the U.S.

Craig, Sean, and Mercy are still in Indonesia. While Craig works, Sean and Mercy are holding down the fort at home doing all the things that Mom usually does. It has been a challenge for our family to be in two time zones, 16 hours apart. Thankfully, we can keep in touch through WhatsApp.

Over the last year, we have thought, prayed, and sought direction concerning the big changes facing our family once Faith graduated from high school. Earlier this year, the idea of a sabbatical was mentioned to us. We gave it a passing thought, but as time went on, it was more and more clear that was the direction the Lord was leading us.



*Uncooperative weather Craig had to wait out for 20 minutes before he could land at Pujungan on a recent medevac flight.*

MAF provides the option of a sabbatical for those who have served with MAF for over 10 years. We have been with MAF for 21 and nearing 19 years on the field. While we still believe that MAF's ministry is vitally important, the changes in our family, the need for peer friendships for Sean, the desire to be on the same continent as Faith for the first year she is repatriating back to the U.S., and the compounded changes/stress of the last four years overseas are all factors that lead to this decision. Everyone we sought counsel from affirmed that this is the best thing for our family right now.

The purpose of sabbaticals is to set aside a time for spiritual rest, renewal, and discernment, as well as possible educational training to further equip the individual for more effective ministry with MAF.

The plan right now is that Craig, Sean, and Mercy will be joining Faith and me in California on August 3. Sean and Mercy will start school in mid-August, and Craig and I will start our sabbatical in September.

*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kgilmore@rca.org](mailto: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.*

In preparation for the sabbatical and his time away from the program, Craig has started the first step in the process of “working himself out of a job.” He’s coordinating with the other pilots to ensure all their training is up to date and they will be able to fly to most of the landing strips MAF serves in Kalimantan. He’s also passing on his other chief pilot duties to make sure things are set for the next year while he is away.



*Craig and two of our national staff  
(left to right) Ruly and Isto*



*Our pilot and maintenance staff*

### **Class of 2021**

Faith graduated from high school in May. She is the first MAF kid to graduate high school in Tarakan since way before we moved there. A graduating class of one allows for a unique celebration. At the end of the evening, the youngest child on our team, at almost three years old, said she was glad Faith had a birthday party!

A very special shoutout to “Professor” Steve Bilimek! Without his support, our family’s high school homeschooling journey would have been harder for me and less enjoyable for Faith. Steve has been the upper-grade teacher at our little Peningki Hill School these last four years and has taught grades from fourth up to tenth. Steve, along with his wife Lindsay and their three kids, are in the U.S. this summer raising support with MAF as career staff. Pray for them as they raise support and travel back to Indonesia in September to teach.



*Faith and Henny, Lydia, Ruly, and Sherly—the women from our MAF office—at Faith’s graduation*

### **Prayer Requests**

- Pray that Craig and the kids can leave Indonesia as planned on August 3. Because the Delta variant of COVID-19 is gaining ground there, Indonesia has tightened travel protocols. Pray that those protocols won’t affect their travel plans. Numbers in Tarakan are rising again as well so pray for their health and the health of all our staff.
- Pray for Faith as she adjusts to life in the USA as well as the “what and where” of her plans. Having lived her whole life outside the U.S., she wants to take a year to adjust and transition before she starts college. Pray for her seminar that she will be attending July 18-30.
- Pray for Sean and Mercy as they adjust and transition to life in the U.S. this next year as well. They will be attending the Christian school that Craig attended growing up. Pray for friendships and their adjustment to a larger school and switching classes/teachers each period. Sean will be in



*Faith and Steve at the local beach on an end-of-year-burn-school-papers bonfire night.*

*RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.*

10th grade and Mercy will be in seventh. Out of everyone, Mercy is giving up the most this next year. She is very sad to be leaving her good friends.

- Pray for Craig and me during our sabbatical. We are thankful for the past 19 years. Pray for rest, renewal, and discernment as we look at what the next 19 years might be like.
- Pray for our team in Tarakan. We are so thankful for our team who, even though our absence this next year makes things harder for them, have given us their blessing for our family to do this. Pray for them as they pick up the slack once Craig steps away from his Chief Pilot and flight line roles. Our kids' absence shrinks the school and friendship pool for other kids there even more. We know what the loss of that is like.

Colossians 1:9-12 from The Message has meant a lot to me over the years. This is my prayer for our sabbatical, and it is my prayer for you all as well.

“Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven’t stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of how God works. We pray that you’ll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you’ll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us.”

Thank you all for your support and prayers!

*Craig + Christa Hollander*



*A double medevac flight*



*Young boy from Long Ampung with a broken leg from falling off a roof.*