



## Update from Craig and Christa Hollander February 2022

As our family is still in the U.S. for our sabbatical, we reached out to a teammate to share this update of how our program strives to meet the needs around us. Jeremy shares this:

MAF Kalimantan has had some great opportunities over the past couple of weeks [in late November-early December] to partner with the local church. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, some of the small groups from GKII Siloam [church] have had a hard time finding a place to meet. On several occasions, we have opened our hangar to them for their prayer meetings and they have been super grateful.

Also in the last few weeks, we've flown more medical supply flights to benefit clinics interior in partnership with local churches. An Indonesian church in Singapore also stepped in to provide funding for all the medical supplies. It's been a cool opportunity for the Body of Christ to come together and meet practical needs in interior communities in the name of Christ, and it's a privilege as MAF to be right in the middle of all of it.

The picture on the right shows the hospital staff in Long Ampung receiving the medical supply aid. The banner in the photo says, roughly translated, *'With the love of our Lord Jesus, we give these oxygen concentrators to the hospital in Long Ampung, ApuKayan.'*

Story and photo by Jeremy Toews, MAF Kalimantan



### Family and Sabbatical Update

Sean and Mercy have adjusted to their much-larger classes and are doing well in school. Mercy had a blast being part of the middle school/high school fall musical and is looking forward to the one in the spring. She also played 7th-grade basketball and will be going to science camp at the end of January. Sean is part of an international cooking club at school and helps out on the tech team at church. He is hoping to go to Guatemala with the school's Spanish 1 & 2 classes for a 9-day mission trip right after school gets out in May. Faith was able to help out on the tech team for the musical Mercy was in and is involved in two different college-age groups. She loves her grandparents' cat and curated a 134-hour Christmas music playlist in December.

Craig and I are leaning into the work of sabbatical. Many of us are familiar with sabbaticals that people take to write books, get an advanced degree, or produce something. Our sabbatical is one solely for renewal, refocusing, and discernment. Although it might not look like work from the outside because nothing tangible is being produced, believe me when I tell you there is a lot of inner work being done.

*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.*

On any given day you can find us reading, spending time alone thinking/journaling/walking/reflecting/praying, seeking counsel from trusted advisers, or perhaps spending a couple of hours doing an activity we enjoy. We are doing a huge amount of reading individually from curated reading lists based on ideas or topics we need/want to explore. Other input comes from podcasts, sermons, personal retreats, and meetings with a spiritual director, pastors, and others.

Bi-weekly meetings with our sabbatical coach help us process what we are learning about God and ourselves. Right now we are in the third phase which is “Reflect and Refocus.” The things we are learning now will help us in the next phase “Realignment or Reassignment” where we will need to start discerning and making decisions for future ministry.

The last four months have been hard, stretching, and soul-searching but also encouraging, energizing, and—after 19 years of life overseas—it is something we didn’t know we needed. I echo what author Mark Buchanan said of his sabbatical in his book *The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath*: “It’s pure gift, like being born in peacetime and not war, like being forgiven, or kissed, or told you have beautiful eyes. I never earned a minute of it. I don’t deserve a scrap of it.”

We are very thankful to God, MAF, and you all, our faithful support team, for allowing us to have this time. Thank you!

*Craig and Christa Hollander*

### **Prayer Requests**

We would greatly appreciate prayer for our family as we begin to make decisions in the next couple of months about our future. Pray that we will be able to discern what the Lord wants us to do and that the whole family will agree.

Pray for our team in Tarakan as they continue to serve the people of Kalimantan. There are six staff family units there right now and another on the way in the next month. Pray for health and strength as they continue to serve amid a pandemic. Pray for wisdom and peace as they navigate the never-ending challenges due to staffing changes and teacher/schooling needs.