



**June 2022**

*Since we are still on sabbatical in the U.S., we are sharing a recent story from Kalimantan that was written by one of our teammates. Enjoy!*

**Hati MAF Facilitates Disciple Making in Kalimantan**

This MAF initiative is very effectively bringing together Kalimantan churches that have traditionally been wary of each other. Through Hati MAF (“Hati” means “heart”), individuals from different churches are joining together on ministry projects under MAF’s non-denominational umbrella. This is generating excitement and opening doors in some places that might have previously been closed to Christian outreach.

MAF Kalimantan local staff members have been instrumental in the creation of Hati MAF. Ibu Sherly and Pak Rindu are currently with a Hati MAF team in Long Pujungan, where they are working with children to improve their reading. This will play an important part in helping folks read and understand the Bible for themselves. Previous staff trips to Long Pujungan with Pak Bob and Ibu Ester have focused on encouraging folks to study the Bible for themselves, but that’s somewhat difficult when they can't read well. It's hoped this longer, two-week trip will allow enough time to make an impact on the kids. The plan is to fly in other teams on a two-week rotation so as to not put too large of a burden on just one team. It has really been awesome to see the leadership and passion of our local staff for this ministry, and how they have taken it and run with it. —Tyler Schmidt, MAF Kalimantan.



*Teaching kids to read.*



*The Hati MAF team in front of the GKII church in Long Pujungan. Photos by Tyler Schmidt and Pak Rindu.*

**Family Update**

The school year ended for Sean and Mercy on May 26. That means we have been in the U.S. for almost 10 months and our time of sabbatical is drawing to a close. As you might remember, this was a sabbatical for both renewal and future discernment. In our January letter, I mentioned that this sabbatical process—while hard and stretching—has also been exactly what we needed. It has given us time to heal and strengthen in areas that had become depleted after so many years on the field and has given us space to think and seek God for our future.

*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.*

We began a formal discerning process in January. This recent time of focused discernment included SO much input from a multitude of sources. Together and individually, we sought out and considered the guidance found in sermons, podcasts, our extensive sabbatical reading plans, and family counseling. It also included many deep conversations with about 20 trusted people, who know us well in different contexts and relationships, including lifelong friends, pastors, spiritual directors, and other missionaries. Gathering all this input and processing it through hours in His Word and prayer every day were key to seeing God's direction for us as we made this decision.

We held the prospect of going back to Tarakan with open hands, letting go of that desire, commitment, and history to see if He would give that calling back to us. Not wanting to go back for the wrong reasons, at the end of this process, it was very clear to both of us that He has something else for us in the future. So, after 19 years, our family will be leaving our home and place of service in Indonesia. This was not a quick or easy decision to make but we know it is the right one.

What's next? Craig, Sean, Mercy, and I will be heading back to Indonesia on June 7 for a month to pack up/sell our belongings, say our goodbyes and wrap up this chapter in our lives. Beyond that, we do not know where God is taking us, and we are looking at opportunities both inside and outside of MAF. However, we know He always provides for His children when they follow His voice.

As this chapter in our lives closes, we know we could not have been able to stay overseas as long as we did without YOU, our support team, faithfully praying for us and giving sacrificially to support MAF's work in Kalimantan. We are SO THANKFUL to all of you for being part of our team for the past two decades. We hope to update you again soon after we get back from Tarakan in mid-July.

### **Prayer Requests**

- Pray for us as we head to Indonesia on June 7. The next several weeks will be hard as we sort through the last 19 years of our life and figure out what to keep and what to leave behind.
- Pray for Faith as she will stay here in California while we are gone.
- Pray for us in the coming months as we continue to listen to what God might be saying about our future.

*Craig and Christa Hollander*

*For FROM Him and THROUGH Him and TO Him are all things*  
ROMANS 11:36, ESV