

Dear friends,

Thanks so much for all your prayers and support. We are so blessed!

Here's the latest on our activities:

- We have the opportunity to bring a band from Kisar to record translated hymns and worship songs in the local style in our new studio! The people here love to play their music really loud and sing along karaoke style so we're planning to make VCD's with the songs so they can see the words and sing along as well.
- Josiah turned 1 year last week! We ended up having two birthday parties for him- one 'American style' with a few friends at a park and one 'Indonesian' party. One year birthdays are a BIG deal here so a lot of our time was spent preparing for this. We were excited to have Chey, an Ambonese Malay (AM) translator, be our MC - she did an excellent job and did it all in AM! Usually all functions like that are in high Indonesian so it was fun to get to be a part of sharing AM in a natural setting with our neighborhood. The kids had fun and got to take home a coloring picture and Bible verse in AM as well as a variety of other things!
- Our friend and neighbor, William, lost his wife last week. It happened suddenly so everyone was shocked. We were very involved with the 3 day funeral proceedings as it was right next door with the tent extending to our yard and people sitting on our porches. The trumpets and screaming kept us all awake till 2am, but it was a good learning experience for us to put aside our cultural value of sleep to grieve along with the family. We changed Josiah's party from his birthday to Saturday to respect the family. Please pray for the husband and 3 daughters (high school-college age) as they grieve.
- Matt has almost finished the recording studio! Ventilation has been a challenge as there is no central ventilation system so Matt had to figure out a sound-proof way to get air in.
- In Matt's extra work time he has started doing some exegetical checking of Philippians in AM. That means he is looking for anything left out, added, or changes in meaning in the translation.
- The discoverers (the group of college students that were here for two months of learning about what we do) and most of our expat team members left for Bali this morning for debriefing. We did have one of the discoverers, Farmer Joe, stay with us this last week, but his sleep schedule seemed to be the opposite of ours so we didn't see him much :) Please pray for them as they process their time here.
- Indeah's vocabulary, English and Indonesian, continues to grow. One of our favorite additions is when she gets hot tea or homemade chai and says "dude, it's hot!" It has been fun to watch her friendships grow with neighbor and office kids.
- Josiah is now an experienced walker and has full 'conversations' with us full of expression. He has been blessing us with his gentleness which lately has been especially evident in how he plays with our new kitten, Maia.

What we have to look forward to:

- August 12-20 Alune Jesus film recording - please pray that the recording studio is a blessing and that all the equipment, sound proofing, and ventilation works!
- August 21-27 Matt to Palangkaraya (in Kalimantan, Borneo) to help facilitate a participatory methods workshop. We are planning to ask Elke, our helper who watches our kids, to stay with us for the week. Please pray for the facilitators, especially Matt as he's never done this before!
- September - Kisar recording
- Between October and December - a few surveys and a local language in ministry workshop are in the works

Check out our new pictures of the Kisar survey, birthday parties, and more on picasaweb.google.com/matt.chelsea.connor

