



The Nelson Family serving in Indonesia & Southeast Asia <http://partners-apart.org>

**WARNING!!!!**

Please **DO NOT** post this newsletter on the Internet or pass it to others without our permission!

**Did You Know?**

- *The capital of Indonesia—Jakarta—is built on marshland and is gradually sinking*
- *This year Indonesia begins construction of a new capital—Nusantara or “archipelago” on the eastern side of Borneo*

**Indonesian Flag**



Indonesia

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [paul.nelson@lcms.org](mailto:paul.nelson@lcms.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

**Almost there!**

**Happy New Year!**

After 11 months of planning, preparing, presenting, waiting and hoping, we are soon to be on our way to Indonesia! Our visitor visas were issued and approved just this last Monday allowing us to finalize the rest of our travel plans. Covid tests pending, we leave the US on Friday, February 4, flying from Phoenix to San Francisco to Tokyo to Jakarta (a total of 25 hours of flight time!). In Jakarta, we will quarantine for 7 days, 6 nights in an approved hotel. Thankfully, the whole family will be able to stay together during this time in a family suite. Once our quarantine is finished and all of us test negative on Covid tests, we will fly to Medan, Sumatra. There we have rented an apartment for a couple of months allowing us to look for more permanent housing. The whole family will begin language training as soon as we get settled. Our partner in this process has been the school we will study at—[LCE](#) (Learning Culture & Exchange) based in Medan. They have been immensely helpful in providing advice and guidance through the first round of visa applications, and will also act as our sponsor for the student visas we hope to receive after arrival which will enable us to stay for a year to study.

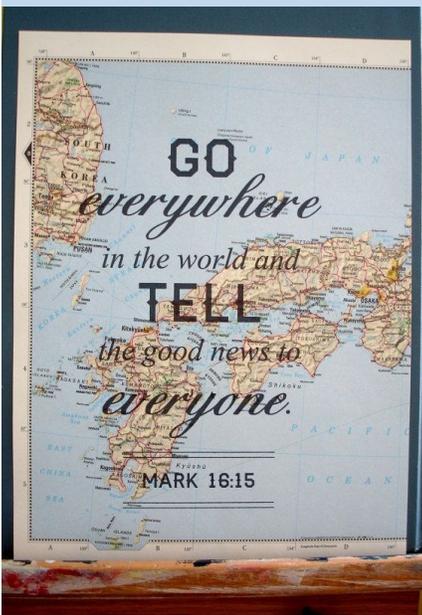
God is good. We are blessed by His hand of provision every step of the way. And we are so thankful for your prayers, support and encouragement to our family during this process. We are excited to be this close to departure!

**Christmas in AZ**



## **Prayer Requests, Praises and Thanks**

- Thanks be to God—our short-term visas have been granted!
- Pray we all pass the Covid tests necessary to fly
- Pray for an end to the Covid pandemic and a re-opening of borders
- Pray we and the Wood family will be in Indonesia in February 2022
- Thanks be to God for providing a suitable place to live in Phoenix for January
- Thanks be to God for all the partners with us in this new venture!



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at:

[lcms.org/service](http://lcms.org/service).

## **Carrying Baggage**

Certainly we all have our fair share of baggage we carry around with us. But we'll be adding to that in a very tangible way as we fly to Indonesia. Each member of our family plans to take two large checked bags as well as a smaller carry-on bag and either a backpack or briefcase.

We're grateful to friends at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona. After hearing about our need for larger bags, people responded with a pile of donated suitcases! This should be more than enough for our clothes, the few mementos of home we want to take, and perhaps even some of my theological books.

## **Prayer Requests from the Family...**

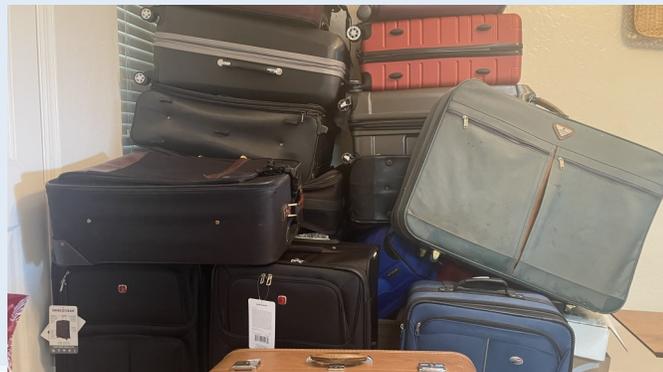
**Paul**— Please pray for the family and friends we leave behind in the US. Give them peace and comfort as we establish new ways of staying connected.

**Gena**—Please pray for good connections with the Indonesian people as we begin our life in Medan, that God open doors for the sharing of His amazing love.

**Alec**—As we are in the final stages of moving from the U.S. over to Indonesia, I would ask that you pray for peace of mind for our family as we prepare ourselves for the changes to come.

**Mika**—I would ask that you pray for our health as we are traveling, that very little sickness or disease comes our way.

**Caedmon**—Please pray for our safety during this time of travel.



To support our work financially, make checks payable (memo line: "Support of Rev. Paul A. Nelson") to "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" and send your tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861  
**888-930-4438**

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at [lcms.org/Nelson](http://lcms.org/Nelson).