



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

WARNING!!!!

Please **DO NOT** post this newsletter on the Internet without our permission!

Did You Know?

- *Approximately 67% of Indonesians have a smart phone*
- *Average Indonesian income ranges from a low of about \$200/month to \$800/month or more (US dollars)*
- *Global economic pressures continue to weaken Indonesian currency*

For more regular updates and images of our life in Medan, Indonesia please visit our blog:

<http://partners-apart.org>

Or click [HERE!](#)

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

Thanksgiving Highlights:



Below: Homemade bread stuffing for 120 people! Left, Alec helps sing "Country Roads" as part of Thanksgiving entertainment at our language school



Thanksgiving is not an Indonesian holiday but people here (particularly young people) are interested in this American event. For the first time in three years our language school hosted their annual Thanksgiving program, giving over 100 people the opportunity to learn about American history, culture, and cuisine through this holiday.

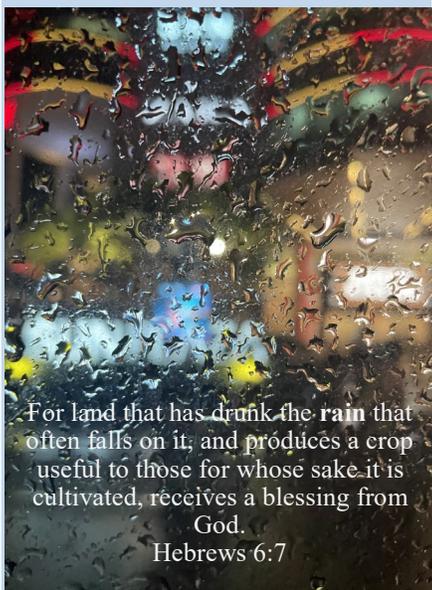
While we didn't have turkey we did have *two* thanksgiving celebrations. The first, with newfound friends through the American Consulate in Medan and their Mormon church brethren (*see photo on back*), and the second with our language school. In each situation there was plenty of food and conversation. However the language school event was definitely challenging for many of the attendees who had no experience with mostly authentic American Thanksgiving cuisine.

The bread stuffing (our contribution) as well as mashed potatoes and a few other dishes were starkly different from typical Indonesian flavors, and not everyone was able (or willing) to endure it. But plenty of others had a literal taste of American culture for the first time. It's amazing how intricately food and flavor is linked to our cultural identity!

Food was the capstone of the event, preceded by much singing, dancing, game-playing, ice-breakers and other elements of a traditional Indonesian party. A good time was had by all over the 3-4 hour event.

Prayer Requests, Praises and Thanks

- Thanksgiving for slightly cooler weather in the rainy season
- Praise God for our continued progress in language study
- Thanks to God for opportunities to keep meeting new people
- Give thanks to God for our many faithful partners!



For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.
Hebrews 6:7

Mission Central provides incredible financial support to LCMS workers around the world—including us! Contact Mission Central for more information!

<https://missioncentral.us>
712-882-1029

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.

Meeting



Left: Conversations with Lindung (foreground) and Hotline (background).

Below: Thanksgiving celebration with new acquaintances



Isn't it awfully expensive to send church workers overseas? Wouldn't it be more cost effective for locals to work locally? Is this the best use of the church's resources?

That's a question—and not an unfair one—we heard often as we were building partnerships prior to deployment to Indonesia. It *is* awfully expensive. And many, *many* locals are already sharing the Gospel with their own people. But the fact remains that sending Christians to distant lands to share the Gospel is a practice going back to Jesus and the apostles. God's economics are decidedly different from our own. His resources have no limit!

Outsiders have certain advantages, not the least of which is human curiosity. Because we look and act and sound different, some people are curious to talk with us and learn why we're here and learning to speak their language. Some are local Indonesians, while others come from other parts of the world. Ex-pats form fast bonds here because many of them leave soon. We are blessed with many hellos, but there will also be plenty of goodbyes.

Locals are curious to get to know foreigners. Foreigners are more open to and hungry for relationships with people who share some level of cultural background. The Holy Spirit weaves in and through and around these relationships and creates opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Apparently the Holy Spirit uses people willing to endure leaving their native culture to be placed in someone else's. I won't judge his methodologies even when they confuse me. But I'm grateful for his work that brought you and our family together, all that God might receive the glory and the good news of Jesus might continue to be shared throughout the world.

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.