



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?

- *The Year of Living Dangerously (1982)* is set against a backdrop of dramatic events in Indonesia in 1965-66
- Taiwan's population is about 4% Christian
- Travel from Medan to Taiwan takes about 6 hours and requires a connection in Kuala Lumpur or Singapore

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.

On the Road Again



This month was my longest journey since arriving in Southeast Asia—a combined trip to Singapore and Taiwan. My first visit to the LCMS SE Asia regional headquarters in Chiayi City (out one of the windows, left). It was a fantastic opportunity to meet some of the increasing number of workers at headquarters. It was also an important strategy session with Regional Director Rev. Charles Ferry. Together we mapped out an ambitious schedule of travel to support our deployed staff, as well as assist in new partnership opportunities in Bangladesh and the Philippines. Malaysia and Singapore will continue to be a primary focus of mine in between other, farther-flung projects.

The four days in Taiwan included two travel days, but it was an investment of time I pray will reap rich rewards in the future for the Kingdom of God!

Prior to heading out to Taiwan I visited with our friends in Singapore again, worshipping together before enjoying a dinner together. I'm beginning to feel more at home in this massive, sprawling island/nation/city, and I've only scratched the surface. I look forward to availing myself of a large Christian bookstore in town that also stocks professional and academic-level materials.

One of my next projects is developing an online course in Theological English. Hopefully this course will assist those with basic English-language capabilities to improve their mastery of theological terminology in order to engage with academic theological writings, or perhaps even additional theological study. Ideally this resource could be used by anyone in the world, not just the SE Asia Region!



Preparing to enjoy dinner with Johanna, Steven and Johan in Singapore.

Prayer Requests, Praises and Thanks

- Prayers for safe travel to Cambodia & Vietnam in January
- Prayers for a successful all-Asia retreat in Phnom Penh
- Thanks to God for Mika's 18th birthday!
- Give thanks to God for our many faithful partners!



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.

Isaiah 43:19—From Gena's Perspective

When we left the US for Indonesia, we left our Christmas decorations behind buried at the bottom of a small storage unit. As Christmas approached I experienced a range of emotions ~ excitement for experiencing new traditions and some sadness for what we left behind. Which sparked an idea—what if we had some new Indonesian Christmas stockings made with traditional Indonesian batik fabric?

This sent me down a path of logistics which honestly was quite daunting in another culture and language! Alec had a connection with a tailor shop in the market near our neighborhood, so we decided to start there. With a borrowed Christmas stocking from another ex-pat, Alec & I did our best to ask if the tailors could replicate the stocking. I learned new vocabulary that day and we left with assurances they could do it. But between our limited language skills and their clear confusion, we were hardly confident! However whatever the outcome, it would be part of our family story and part of our cross-cultural adventure.

Our next step was choosing fabric at a large fabric store near our house. The shop owner was clearly puzzled about what we intended to do, and inquired how we were going to wear these stockings? Most Indonesians apparently haven't heard of Christmas stockings!

We delivered the fabric back to the tailor and were promised they would be ready the day before Christmas. But what would they look like? We had no idea. It turns out they finished them on Friday rather than Saturday, so the kids picked them up on their way home from language school. We were awed at the results—they are beautiful works of art and will be a lasting memory of our time together here and God's provision through it all. Even in little things like Christmas stockings He renews our hope and reminds us Behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:19)



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
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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.