



The Nelson Family serving in Indonesia & Southeast Asia

<http://partners-apart.org>

Visas and Travels

WARNING!!!!

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

Did You Know?

- Lake Toba is the largest volcanic lake in the world
- The GKLI is comprised primarily of Batak peoples, who overall make up about 3.5% of Indonesia's overall population
- Scientists estimate Lake Toba was created by a massive volcanic eruption roughly 70,000 years ago,

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.

In July I finally received my Indonesian work permit, called a KITAS. This acknowledges me as having an ongoing presence in the country. Finally, entering and exiting will be less nerve-racking as there will be fewer questions about why I keep coming and going from Indonesia without a longer-term visa. Thank you for your prayers, and thank you to our church partner, the GKLI, for assisting in this. I was able to preach and teach (with an interpreter!) at the GKLI Youth Jamboree early in July. Over 400 youth from around Sumatra gathered at a beautiful camp to grow in their knowledge of God's Word.

Other travels included another trip to Singapore to lead worship and set up a new meeting location for our small group. I was also in Kuala Lumpur providing catechesis for James—he is preparing for baptism and his first Communion with the LCMS!

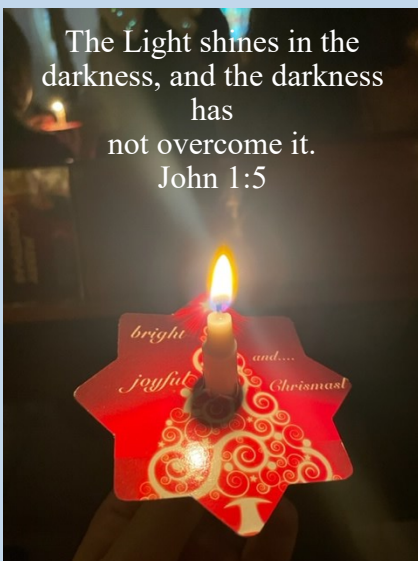


Top Left—Bishop Jon Albert of the GKLI. I was presented with a Batak ulos after my preaching and teaching, a traditional weaving given on special occasions.
Top Right—main seating area for the youth during the GKLI Youth Jamboree. There was another seating area almost as large just to the left of this!
Left—The view from the camp, overlooking a green (of course!) valley and in the distance the southeastern edge of Lake Toba.

Prayer Requests, Praises and Thanks

- Thanksgiving to God for my work visa!
- Prayers for safe travel as my workload increases
- Prayers for our family as we prepare for changes with our kids' lives
- Thanksgiving to God for Jesus Christ!
- Safety prayers for the many international workers traveling back from the US

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
John 1:5



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.

Local Connections

My travels have me out of the country for half of each month or more, some months. And in those times the family remains here in Medan. It's important, now that the family has completed language training, to find ways of connecting with the people of Medan more closely in ministry. This is important for my family who is here more of the time as well as for myself.

Not surprisingly, the Holy Spirit has been making connections for us.

One of those connections is with a new startup in Medan, a recovery house and program for women seeking to overcome drug and alcohol addiction. The culture here often shuns and ostracizes those who struggle so, deepening a cycle of poverty despair and isolation. An American woman we've met here is hoping to provide an option of hope through a Christian recovery program. Because our family was involved in ministering personally to this sort of community in the US, we've been asked to serve as advisory members for their Board of Directors and to contribute our time and talents as the Holy Spirit leads us. It's an exciting opportunity and we look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit develops this ministry.



Another interest is work with refugees. Here in Medan there is a refugee population from areas of the world such as Iran and Pakistan. Some of them have lived in this in-between status as refugees for over a decade. Not because they want to, but because the political climate around the world has not facilitated a solution to their private interregnums. Please pray the Holy Spirit is able to provide an opportunity for ministry to and with these displaced peoples!

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.