

SEWELLTRIBE NEWS

FALL 2011

LET THEM GIVE GLORY TO THE LORD AND PROCLAIM HIS PRAISE IN THE ISLANDS. —ISA



Seasons and Language “gathering”

Greetings from hot and dry Indonesia! Hope all of you are well, enjoying your changing season of Fall. Indonesia has two seasons: rainy and dry. Dry season is usually during what we would call summer, and the days are hot and dry.

Dry season is still upon us and it has also been “summer” in the American sense of the word, until last month. Well, at least for the kids. We were still plugging away at language school during the “summer”, so we can get as much language and culture acquired during time here in Salatiga. In Ecclesiastes it talks about a time for everything under heaven. This is our time for “gathering” language and

culture. Here, for Indonesian children, summer is only three weeks. During their time “off”, the children can be found flying kites, playing in the neighborhood, helping their mothers at home, visiting their grandparents, etc.

As for our children, summer was three months. Micah had playgroup each day for two hours, and Josiah had a day camp three days a week for two-months. Curtis and I were in classes Monday through Friday and were “gathering” as much as we could.

One way Lesley “gathered” language as well as watching the kids was

when we have the neighbor kids over to play. One favorite this summer was with the hose on the front porch, and skiing or sliding across the porch. Water activities are fun throughout the year here, but especially on hot, dry days. She could practice Indonesian while watching them play.

As a family, we did lots of swimming this summer, and Josiah is now swimming by himself, all the way across the pool! We are so proud!

The season has changed again and we are in full swing of the “autumn” and new school year, and finishing up our “gathering” language and culture formally in three months.



Here are the neighborhood kids playing “slide on the porch” with the hose.



Independence Day (Indonesian), Birthdays, and the like

Salatiga and Josiah both had birthdays in August and we also celebrated one year here in Indonesia!

It is hard to believe we have lived here that long already, but this is home now, and we are so excited to see what this second year brings as the Lord continues to help us learn Indonesian and we are considering where He might have us serve once language study is over.

We could not have done without you all! Thank you

for being on our team!!

August also brought the month of Ramadhan, the month of fasting for Muslims. At the end of the month, there is a three to five day time period called Idul Fitri or Lebaran. During this time, many people travel to their superiors’ homes and family’s homes and ask for forgiveness for anything done over the entire year. Then there are big parties, kind of like a combination of Christmas and Thanksgiving. We

visited our house helpers’ families’ during that time.

Indonesian Independence Day, was August 17 and there were ceremonies, fireworks, and parties too.

The last event was our Josiah turning 7 years old right in the middle of it all on the 21st. We had a good time celebrating his big day swimming with friends and eating at KFC.



Here are some our neighbor kids and our house helpers’ kids playing with Jo in the sandbox one day in our backyard.



Prayer requests:

-Wisdom and direction in considering where to serve long-term. We have to make big decisions soon.

-Wisdom in parenting: that we would deal with Josiah’s special needs with love, patience, and understanding.

-for Josiah in 2nd grade, that he will do well with the accommodations in place and be able to keep up with the new concepts taught.

Praises:

-We are in Unit 6 of 9 units of language study now.

-We are getting deeper relationships with our friends, neighbors of the M faith.

- Josiah and Micah are happy in their schools and adjusting well to life here.

A Little Bit of Culture

One of our favorite foods in Indonesia is this snack called Puthu. It is pronounced “poo-too” with a spit sound on the “too” This man comes along on foot or by motor bike, with a whistle sound to alert his coming. Puthu is a rice, brown sugar, and coconut concoction that is just heavenly! We love to hear the Whistle sound, and the boys run outside to say “dua” or “tiga” to the seller. That is two or three, how many orders depending on our hunger, and if we give some to our neighbors. It is a great pastime, and now we are developing a relationship with the seller too.

The way he makes it is really neat! He has a steamer on his cart, and has tube –like wooden things that he puts a little rice, a little brown

sugar, and a little coconut flakes in , and then smashes them in the tube thing. He then puts



the tube over a hole that has steam coming out of it, hence the whistle, and it steams it. it is fast,

Jogjakarta: A special and different city

In the beginning of July, we got to take a short family vacation for a few days to Jogjakarta, which is a city about 2 hours from here, near the southern coast of Java. It is a city independent of the rest of Java, and they have a king still, called a sultan, who rules. This city is famous for bargaining for good Indonesian textiles, batik fabric, and souvenirs. We got to stay in a hotel with a pool, and we visited the city one day, went to the zoo another day, and got swal-

lowed up by the crowds at the mall another day. It was a great trip! Here is Josiah acting like he was a becak driver. This is a type of bicycle with a seat in the front for people to sit.



Thank you so much for your prayers, and your support of us financially, by letters, emails, packages, calls, etc. You are so important to our ministry here in Indonesia, and we could not be here learning this language or serving here without you! We hope that all of you are doing well, enjoying new years of school, work, college, marriage, parenting, etc. The Lord has so much in store for us as we learn to serve Him, each step of the way. Please keep in touch with us, let us know your own happenings, and how we can be praying

for you too.

By His Grace,

Curtis, Lesley, Josiah, and Micah

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