

Dear Friends,

A lot has happened since last month's report and even more is in store for us this month. Because so many of you are helping us in many ways and praying for us, we'd like to share what you have made possible and what we need to get done this month. Thanks for your prayers as we start this new month.

Tjandra's mother came for a visit from the island of Java. She was planning to stay a month but in Indonesia plans tend to quickly change. We're are in the midst of presidential elections and the current president is trying to buy votes any way she can (as are the other candidates). So she promised an extra month salary to all civil servants. Tjandra's Mom is entitled to this extra month pay also but her bank in Java would not give it to her unless she came to collect it in person so she returned home after only one week:-)

After our **MAF Office/parts room/workshop burnt down** on May 30th, we have been extremely busy. The police would not (and still won't let us) into the site because of their investigation even though it is clear that the fire started in the electrical meter from the power company. So several hundred emails have gone back and forth with estimates for insurance, plans for rebuilding, trying to gather information for new airplane log books, rebuilding the computer files and record keeping, etc. Then there was word on possibly closing the base. Then requests from US-MAF for information for a funds appeal when it was decided to keep the base open. Then our replacement pilot (on furlough) didn't want the person that Remi had trained to be office manager as his office manager so Remi had to start training a new office manager from scratch. Then the person Remi started training was caught in some financial dishonesty so we had to switch back to the other person that was being trained for office manager. Then as we were getting prepared to hand the base over to our colleagues on furlough, Remi went to pick them up at the airport but they didn't show up and instead planned at the last minute to not return to Palangkaraya for an undisclosed time period so we had to change gears again, planning to close the base for now instead of handing it over to our colleagues. From all of this, you can perhaps understand our business, discouragement, stress, etc. It has not been an easy month.

The good news is that basically all damage caused by the fire will be reimbursed by two insurance companies except for possibly our personal tools. We won't know until the final estimate is sent into the insurer and the adjuster makes a decision.

Two days ago, Remi made his **last two flights** with MAF-US, to warm up the engines and then park them with desiccant attached to the engine openings to preserve them while they are not being used to prevent the engines from rusting. Pilots keep log books and after puzzling back his log book after the original one was burnt in the fire, Remi calculated that he has flown some **7,400 hours during his 16 years with US-MAF in Indonesia**, providing services such as medical flights, church flights, missionary flights, commercial flights, carrying anything from medicines, to roofing, to cement, to fuel, to monkeys and orangetans, to dead bodies, to newborn babies, etc. It's been a great time in our lives and we're looking forward to doing more of this type of ministry after furlough. We have **finished our time here with US-MAF as of July 1st** and now have some time to pack up our belongings, selling some, giving away lots, and to finish our involvement in the many other ministries we've been involved in. It's amazing how many people have already dropped by to say their farewells and many more are planning to come. It's wonderful to see so many people that have been blessed by our (you and us) ministries. On the other hand, it does not make it easier to prepare for our furlough and closing our time here.

We just had Theo and Fien Vermeulen from **Indonesia Zending (IZ)** (the Dutch mission that we are board members with and have helped with overseeing a number of their projects in Indonesia) were here a few days to take over all our IZ projects. They just moved to Indonesia a couple of weeks ago so that's perfect timing. Besides the IZ projects, we're busy **shedding our other involvements** such as the Derek Prince book distributing, overseeing the Orphanage financing in the east of our province, taking care of the German missionary nurses' needs and funds, pastors/church planters supported by a Dutch church, Tjandra's cell group ministry and the Bible school we helped build.

The **new Bible school building** is progressing slowly as funds come in. Thank you sooooo much for your involvement in this. Recently enough funds came in through our church in Canada and from other individuals that we could pour the second floor in 1/3 of the building and to now finish the bathrooms in that part of the building. At least there will be just enough finished for the students to move to the new building in December when the lease on the current building runs out.



1/3 of the second floor poured

We're now working hard on finishing the constitution and other administration so that the school will run as efficient as possible after we leave. This coming school year will probably see the largest number of students yet. Thank you for your help with this project as well.

Is it easy to have been involved in many of these ministries and now suddenly have to withdraw? NO! On the other hand, we know God is in control and that there are many others that can continue these ministries. Some have already come forward to do so and we're really pleased with the zeal and abilities of the people looking after the ministries we'll leave behind.

Yesterday, one of the German nurses was in town for our farewell who shared that people in her village had seen Tjandra's discipleship training books and asked her to come teach how they can have cell groups in their village so now we're trying to fit a **trip to the interior** with Heli Mission's helicopter to minister to the people there before we leave Palangkaraya on July 19th. We sure didn't expect to finish our air travel in Kalimantan by being customers with Heli Mission but they are a great mission and we've become very close to their families so it's great to know that they are here to take over much of MAF's flying while (and after) our base is closed.

What else are we planning for at this time?

-Start our furlough towards the end of this month. Remi's Dad will come to Indonesia and we'll travel with him through Java, doing some sightseeing and relaxing and saying our goodbyes to Tjandra's family as we may not return to Indonesia for ministry.

-Leave for Canada around September 1st. We thought our tickets to Seattle were booked but apparently the travel agent didn't and all the flights to the US (Tjandra can't fly directly to Canada with an open return ticket) are full around that date.

- Hopefully **start our cross country road trip around September 15th** so that we can see our many friends and supporters across the country before winter sets in. **If you'd like us to visit you during around 15 Sept-15 Nov, please let us know soon** so we can start working on this trip.
- After Nov 15th, we'll be available for seeing our friends and supporters in the Fraser Valley area.
- We'll need to look for housing in the Langley area as soon as we return to Canada
- We'll be in need of a car or minivan after our cross Canada road trip. We'll want to purchase, rent, borrow, whatever works best.
- We'll be in need of furniture and other items upon our return to Canada for around 4-6 months. Remi's Dad was so kind to store some of our belongings from last furlough but we had to discard all our furniture such as beds.
- We'll be needing to work on our future after our furlough. PNG is not an option for us so we're looking for another base in MAF where we can put our kids in a school nearby. Please pray that we'll find the Lord's will for us in this regard.
- Remi will have to start replacing all his tools that were lost in the fire. This will take lots of time to find all the specialty tools.
- We have no idea what to do about our kid's schooling yet because of our two month road trip first.

If you can help with any of the above or give us ideas on where to look for items we need, please let us know as well. Thank you in advance.

How can you contact us: via this **email** address until we arrive in Canada and we send you a different email. Via **postal mail:**

R&T van Wermeskerken
 c/o 3754-204A Street
 Langley, BC, V3A 4S4 But PLEASE do NOT give this address out to any mailing lists or organizations that will send unwanted mail since this is not our own mailing address.

In the past many of you have responded to special requests for ministry here and we've had many positive comments from people that were able to help the people here. So here's another one of Remi's "visionary" ideas for anyone interested in making a big difference here:

We are in the process of selling or giving away most of our belongings as it's too expensive to ship them to Canada. Our Bible school has no funds to purchase furniture as they are desperately trying to finish enough of the building to move into it in December. We have several larger items that we can sell to others but the Bible school really needs. Would any of you like to help the Bible school by purchasing one or more of the following items for them? That would still give us the needed funds to purchase some needed furniture in Canada and help the Bible school with getting needed items. All items are in good shape and priced below what we can sell it to others for:-) If you are interested in helping, please let us know via email before July 7 as we need to discard or pack our things by 15 July.

For sale:

Quantity	Item	Price Cdn \$
5	seat knockdown sofa set with three matching tables	190.00
7	seat rotan sofa set with one matching table	150.00
2	level rolling cupboard	15.00
4	single beds with mattresses (each)	25.00
1	Large, tall 3 door bedroom cupboard, like new	90.00
2	ceiling fans - 3 speed, with lights (each)	30.00
1	Bicycle - Ladies - 10 speed - heavy duty	45.00
1	Bicycle - Men's - 10 speed - heavy duty	45.00
1	Very large fridge - good condition	200.00
4	tall - 2 door cupboards - wood (each)	45.00
1	make up table with 2 mirrors & stool - wood	30.00
1	washing machine - 2 years old	90.00
1	Minolta 35 mm camera with 50 mm & 200 mm lenses	50.00
1	Oven - small	10.00
1	Acer - computer scanner	65.00

1	small colour tv	40.00
1	Sony sound system & dual cassette players	80.00

Obviously, any help for the purchase of any of these items for the Bible school will be extremely appreciated as they have no funds for purchasing any of these items on their own and we expect to see the largest student population since the school started, which means that they'll have to purchase more items to house and take care of the students. By the way, none of the students have money to pay for their school fees or their daily costs such as food or transportation. So this Bible school is entirely financed by donations.

So as our time here comes to a close, we have some time to reflect back on our last 16 years here and would do it all over again. We've been blessed in many ways and the people of Kalimantan have been blessed in more ways than most of us realize. Thanks again for your involvement in all of this and making this possible. Let me end this news letter by telling you of one particular flight we did just before the fire and which hopefully gives you a good example of what your support has made possible these past 16 years.

Until next month, Remi, Tjandra, Amanda, Anthony and Angelina

One example of these **patient flights** is a young **church planter named Stefie**. While I was teaching Grady Maynard, to fly floatplanes, we received a call about a seriously sick church planter. We decided to once again postpone the flight training and pick up this patient. When we arrived, Stefie was in very bad shape, slipping in and out of a coma, his skin and eyes were all yellow, so we quickly flew him to Palangka Raya (The capital of Central-Kalimantan) to bring him to the hospital. We then finally got back to the flight training, only to hear that the doctors in town would not treat Stefie because he needed his blood cleaned desperately, which they can't do in Palangka Raya. So then we flew him 45 minutes to Banjarmasin in the neighbouring province. MAF paid for part of the flights and Indonesia Zending which we represent here as board members, paid the remainder of the flights. The Catholic hospital in Banjarmasin didn't charge for anything other than medicines so Stefie could get his blood cleaned and changed twice but seemingly to no avail. The doctors gave up on him and would give no further treatment and the church leadership had already bought his coffin and purchased land for his burial. Stefie heard about this and prayed all night. The next morning, he was completely healed, sat up in bed and stunned all the doctors. They quickly did a blood test on him and it was almost back to normal after having been completely poisoned the night before. Do prayers work? You bet! Does MAF and IZ's ministry help? You bet! Has your support over the last 16 years helped us provide these type of services and ministry? You bet! Several weeks later, Stefie preached in our church and he's now back in his little village, bringing the Gospel "to the ends of the earth!"



Stefie being medivaced



Stefie preaching again after near death