

Lessons from a Belly Pack



It was Sunday, and we were going to learn more about our wonderful God...but this lesson didn't take place in church. I (Darrell) was acting as the temporary single parent as Laura Lee had gone to Jakarta on Friday for a women's conference. The plan was that the kids and I would fly over and join her so that we could arrange new passports for Bronwyn and Caleb at the Canadian embassy. Since I was the only parent, I was trying to be diligent and not overlook any details, especially the ones Laura Lee usually looks after. Everything seemed to be going very well.

Upon landing in Jakarta, I was careful to make sure the kids didn't forget anything at their seats. With our carry-on luggage in hand, we headed to the place where you collect your checked-in baggage. Naturally ours was the carousel that was farthest away. As I was waiting for our bags, I suddenly realized to my horror that I had forgotten my belly pack on the plane under the seat in front of me! A cold sweat broke out on my brow and Bronwyn knew from the look on my face that something was very wrong. After what seemed like forever, our bags finally came and we made a bee-line back the way we had come. I inquired at the transit desk and they advised that we go to the lost-and-found office which happened to be way back next to our baggage carousel. So back we went again. By now the sweat was no longer just the "cold sweat on my brow"! I

quickly told them what I was missing and gave them my ticket. A man ducked out the little luggage carousel door to try to track it down. All we could do was wait. I couldn't help but think of all the things that were in my belly pack: all my money (as well as a significant amount of CBM money for the passport process), my credit card, my driver's license, photocopies of the family's important documents (passports, visas, police letters), my daily planner, etc. I was also praying diligently with the
...continued **BELLY PACK**, p 2

Being 13 in Indonesia

by Bronwyn

Here in Indonesia I get to experience things I wouldn't in Canada. One such example happened about a month ago when Dad and I went interior with some students and profs as part of a church service project. We helped take down the worn-out thatch that was on the parsonage and replace it with fresh, new thatch from palm fronds.

...continued **BEING 13**, p 3



Parsonage with a new thatched roof

In This Issue:

- Lessons from a Belly Pack, p 1
- Being 13 in Indonesia, p 1
- The Power Center - Connecting thru Prayer, p 2
- Milestones, p 3
- Can You See the Difference, p 4

BELLY PACK from p 1...

hope that God would answer my prayer by having the man suddenly appear holding my belly pack. After what seemed a very long time, the man did indeed come back, but with no belly pack. Apparently our airplane had made a quick turn-around and was already enroute to another Indonesian city.

To say I was disappointed would be a bit of an understatement. With about 250 million Indonesians, who exactly would be the one to find my belly pack? What were the chances that I would ever see it again? In terms of our immediate needs, thankfully Bronwyn had enough money with her to help us buy supper and pay for the taxi. I certainly wasn't looking forward to breaking the news to Laura Lee. I almost felt sick to my stomach. But not surprisingly Laura Lee was very gracious & forgiving. In fact I was madder at myself than she was. However through it all, I did still honestly believe that God would help us. I just wasn't sure how.

At about 6 am the next morning, Bill Dyck, our CBM co-worker phoned to tell us the amazing news that someone had actually found my missing belly pack and was trying to get ahold of me. Shortly after that I received a text message on my cell phone that totally floored me. The message in Indonesian said the following: *"Shalom sir. I am Simon. I found your belly pack and I am keeping it safe because I was afraid one of the Adam Air staff might take the money from it. (I have a friend who experienced that before.) Don't worry. I didn't take any of the money because I am also a pastor. Three weeks ago I helped lead an Evangelism Explosion training seminar at STK. I apologize for having to open your bag to look for your phone number. I will telephone you tomorrow. God bless you."* Isn't God amazing!! Of all the people who could have found my belly pack, the Lord arranged it so that not only was the person who found it an honest person, not only was he a believer, not only was he a pastor, but he had even been on the seminary campus three weeks earlier. By Tuesday morning the belly pack had been couriered to us and a couple of months later we had the privilege of meeting Simon in person when he came through Pontianak.

I know that God could have answered my prayer for my lost bag in the way I had originally asked. I would have been grateful. I would continue to believe in the power of prayer. But I probably wouldn't have been amazed. I am so glad that I serve a God who sometimes loves to take our breath away, who enjoys surprising his children.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Eph 3:20)



With Simon, the finder of the belly pack!

THE POWER CENTRE

PRAYERS ALREADY ANSWERED:

- ✿ Praise God for a good year at STK. It has been an encouraging year for everyone.
- ✿ The children's schooling situation for next year is already looking positive. Another teacher is currently doing language study and will be joining the kids' school next Fall as well as a volunteer assistant.
- ✿ We are so grateful for our 20 years of marriage. What a incredible journey we have had so far.

ONGOING PRAYER ITEMS:

- ✿ In July, our co-workers, Bill & Janice Dyck, return to Canada for a year. In August the Byrne-Mamahit family (formerly serving in East Kalimantan) will be joining us here in Pontianak after their furlough.
- ✿ Pray for the students at STK who are serving at their ministry sites for the school break. Pray especially for the students who are starting their field experience.
- ✿ Pray for Caleb as he tries to complete his unfinished work in June so that he has a break in July before school starts up again in August. Remember Laura Lee as she tries to teach him with patience & wisdom.

BEING 13 from p 1...

There are not as many restaurants in Pontianak. KFC is the major fast-food place here; there is also Texas Chicken, A&W, and Pizza Hut. We do our best to keep Pizza Hut in business! Sometimes the food here can be quite different, but it can also be tasty. (See “Can You See the Difference?” on page 4 for an example.) There are also some delicious fruits here that you cannot get in Canada.

A normal part of life as a missionary is the coming and going of friends as families go on furlough and move away. This can be hard sometimes. Our schooling here is a bit different. We are very grateful that Miss Barb is here teaching us and that this fall a new teacher and teacher assistant are coming. Because Miss Barb was the only one here to teach us this past year, the younger kids went to school from eight until twelve and the older students, including Caleb and I, went from eleven-thirty until three.

Here the “pemuda remaja” or “youth” are those in the age range of senior high and young adult. Because of this I do not have the opportunity to go to youth group. I do help one of the moms lead Kids Club for the other missionary children here in the city.

The dress style here is strongly impacted by the Muslim religion. Whenever I go out I put on capris or pants, although we are allowed to wear t-shirts. I am very thankful for this because of the extreme heat. People here do not have nearly as many body piercings as they do in Canada. Most women have their ears pierced once, but that is it. Something we noticed last year in Canada was that it seemed as if ALL the young people had i-pods with head phones in their ears. I thought it was funny that sweaters and bags even had holes in them for that reason! Very few people here could ever afford to buy an i-pod or MP3 player.

There are almost no English TV shows here, which also means very few sports. Last year Caleb and I became very avid sports fans, especially of hockey. One of the only English sports on TV here is Formula 1 racing. I found it strange when we were in Canada that when the F1 races were on I wasn't all that interested. But now that we are back in Indonesia again it has become something I really enjoy watching.

Even though there are things about life in Canada that I miss, I am thankful to God that I can live in Pontianak and enjoy some of the unique experiences that are part of our lives in Indonesia.

Milestones



Praying over the students who are starting their field experience

Some significant milestones have recently occurred in our lives, both personally and with the ministry. On Friday, June 6, the seminary held its closing program, bringing to a conclusion the semester and the 2007/2008 school year. The program also serves as a commissioning service. Thirteen students had completed all of their course requirements and were ready to begin their 6 month field experience, serving full-time in a church or school, which must be completed before they can graduate next January. Please pray for these students as they put all their training into practice, usually under very challenging circumstances. Pray that God will protect them, provide for them, guide them, and that the joy of the Lord will be their strength. Pray also for all the other students who will also be spending the two months of “summer break” serving at their usual ministry sites.

STK wasn't the only school to come to the end of the school year. The mini-school the children attend also wrapped up with a special evening of songs, poems, art work and expressions of thank-you. We are so grateful for the year they've had with the other children, and especially for their teacher, Barb Cork. Pray for Caleb as he has to do some extra “summer school” with Laura Lee, due to his books being over 2 months late arriving last Fall. Everyone knows summer school never ranks very high among 9-year-old boys.

June 2008 Edition

...continued **MILESTONES**, p 4



Children's closing school program

MILESTONES from p 3...

The month of April was important because on the 13th Bronwyn hit the big "13". We now are the proud owners of a brand new teenager. And we really are proud of her. She is turning into a wonderful young lady.



Bronwyn's 13th Birthday

Another important family event took place on June 4th. It marked our 20th wedding anniversary! Wow...twenty years! It is absolutely amazing where God has taken us over the course of those twenty years, and how he has walked beside us each step of the journey.



20 years together and going strong

FOR
And Now a Word From Our Sponsors

For so many of you, when you read about students being trained to become pastors and teachers, churches being planted, communities being helped in the wake of natural disasters, schooling for Bronwyn & Caleb, and the lives of Indonesians being changed for eternity, you are not reading about somebody else's ministry – it is YOUR ministry. Your support through prayer, encouragement and financial gifts gives you an active role in this ministry partnership.

Our hope is that this update brings you a sense of joy and satisfaction as you see how God can use us all to make an impact in the lives of many people, even those who live far from where we are. Thank you for the ways you contribute to CBM's work in Indonesia. And thank you once again for expressing your trust in us in doing this ministry on your behalf. If you are not partnering with us in this way but would like to, please contact Eileen Moore-Crispin at CBM office:

eileenm@cbmin.org .

CAN YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE?

Many of the features of life in Indonesia are similar to Canada. However, there are many aspects that are radically different. We want to share with you some of the interesting things we have experienced.



What would McDonald's call these?

MacLarvae?

Believe it or not, Bronwyn & Darrell actually tried these delicacies! They weren't bad.