

THE SMITH FAMILY

Zach & Stephanie
Smith

January 2024

We arrived to home sweet home on November 8th and started to settle in with what luggage we brought with us on our flight from Jakarta. A few weeks later, the rest of our luggage came by sea freight. It was a little like early Christmas as we opened each of our pieces. God was good in allowing everything to come through without being damaged or searched.

Our first month here, we spent getting oriented to life here. How to buy groceries, where the hardware stores are, how to take the trash out, ordering street food, and learning how to drive here after we got our licenses.

We have successfully made it through a little over a month of language school. Zach has learned a lot in a short amount of time. It's been neat to see how quickly he's picked up key phrases! My (Steph's) Indonesian has come back quickly. We have been doing language classes together, but recently hired a third tutor so we can each learn at the level we need to. Zach spends 4 hours a day doing class at home - 2 hours are spent learning vocab and 2 hours are spent in language and culture immersion. I now spend 2 hours doing conversation with some fine tuning of my reading and writing. Hopefully in a couple months, Zach will be able to go spend his afternoons at the hanger helping load and unload airplanes. His time there will allow him to practice his Indonesian and also learn the hanger before working each day there.

Adam has gotten sick two times since our arrival here. This last time, he had a fever for a little over a day. Thankfully, he has bounced back quickly. Madelyn has become mobil in the short amount of time we've been here. She officially learned to crawl right before Christmas and loves to crawl everywhere and is pulling herself up on furniture constantly. It won't be long and both kids will be running circles together around the kitchen island. Zach and I have been finding random home projects to do to make home feel more like home. He made 2 baby gates - they look and work great!

This is an exciting and exhausting chapter that God's brought us to. God's moving here in Papua and we are thankful to be a part of helping the Bibleless receive the Word in their own language!

Zach, Steph, Adam, and Madelyn



Praise:

- * Language school is going well
- * We've been able to begin connecting with our team and also our local neighbors
- * God was gracious with all our travels and adjustments getting to Sentani

Pray:

- * Continued adjustments to life in Indonesia
- * That we all can stay healthy
- * Wisdom raising our kids cross culturally
- * For the Bibleless to receive the Word in the language and format that they best understand



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