

# Feunekes Flight Path

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## We made it!

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After an interesting and stimulating three weeks in Redlands, California, we set out for Sentani. It was a long haul, but on the morning of July 29 at 6:45 am we arrived at the Jayapura International Airport. What a relief! After over 40 hours of traveling we were ready to get settled in. Our flight on Malaysia Airlines left L.A. at about 2:00 am and after about 15 hours we had a one hour stopover in Taipei. There the kids made use of the people movers for their entertainment. Then we had a 2 hour flight to Kuala Lumpur where we had about 2.5 hours before our flight left. So we got our boarding passes for the Garuda flight to Jakarta and then wandered around the beautiful airport and sampled some pizza. It was surprisingly good! Then we went through security and boarded the flight to Jakarta. It was a two hour flight on which we received an interesting meal of chicken, rice and some green stringy vegetable that we don't know the name of. We were entertained with a video from Canada called "Just for Laughs Gags". Then we landed in Jakarta where we were worried a little about how the customs and immigration process would go. We

needn't have worried, everything went quickly. All of our totes made it in one piece, and they only x-rayed one of our bags. We were supposed to meet the MAF contact in Jakarta, but he wasn't there, so there we stood with all our luggage; rather like zoo animals on display. The Indonesians found us quite interesting. One of our party had the bright idea to check if we

travel is about the same as Vancouver to somewhere inbetween Winnipeg and Toronto. However, we first stopped in Bali for 40 minutes and then in Timika for 40 minutes, making the flight about 7 hours. After each stop we received an interesting meal and were once again entertained with "Just for Laughs Gags." Then finally we landed in Sentani to a

blast of humid air! We were met by some of the MAF staff and were bussed to the airport building. There we watched the workers bring our stuff in carts from the aircraft and throw them onto some rollers from outside the building and then push them inside.



Christiaan and the cart with our stuff on it.

had reservations in the hotel above the airport. We did, so we got a room and managed a couple hours sleep. During that time our tickets for Sentani were dropped off at our room. We then dragged ourselves out of bed and went down to check in for our flight to Sentani. There our patience was tested as everything takes very long and everyone must pay an airport fee of \$20,000 Rupiahs. Thankfully, once we were through we did not have to wait long to board. The distance we were to

Nothing automatic about that system! Then we walked to the compound where we were shown our house. The kids immediately began to play on the large covered play area in the middle of the compound, giving dad and mom a chance to unpack some stuff. We only had half our totes as we were only allowed one checked piece of luggage per person from Jakarta to Sentani. At time of writing we are still waiting for our other totes to arrive by boat from Jakarta. It may take another 2 weeks. They seem to be on what is fondly known here as rubber time.

## First impressions about life in Sentani:

slow yet they drive fast  
humid but not really hot  
freak rain showers  
power outages  
the sounds of large aircraft landing and taking off  
the sound of the crickets at night  
living with screened openings at the top of your windows making you think twice before yelling at your kids as everyone will hear...  
garbage everywhere (except on MAF property of course)  
the dilapidated look that everything seems to have  
living with lizards and ants in the house  
people always touching your children  
four people piled on a motorcycle with only the driver wearing a helmet that looks like a child's play helmet  
the sounds of the children from the school next door  
the taste of fried plantain (banana)  
the wailing of the mosque  
at 6:00 it is dark  
many tiny little shops selling everything imaginable  
surprise at being able to buy Kraft mayonnaise and chocolate hail and Canadian bacon in the same shop as T.V.'s and helmets  
the curvy hilly roads that you need to take to get anywhere  
the bureaucracy that required us to be photographed with a red background and then fingerprinted at immigration and then fingerprinted three times at the police station  
the beauty of being able to sing along in a national church as the tunes are the same as back home  
people coming to your door to sell things and you don't have a clue what they are saying or how much you should pay for that

## Thanks for:

Malaysian airlines for providing craft kits for the kids and personalized video screens for each passenger...  
whoever invented Gravel for kids  
smooth entry into Indonesia  
Justin and Corinne Koens for taking us under their wing and showing us "the ropes".  
the airconditioning in our bedroom  
our pembantu (house help) Terrina living on a walled in compound where the kids have to go through a guard to get out  
the welcoming and helpful MAF families here  
MAF having a computer we could borrow

## Prayer for:

Our things to arrive soon  
the long days not to seem quite so long for those at home during the day  
Hugo to find his place in the avionics shop  
the energy needed to live in this humid climate  
not missing the luxuries we have back home too much  
not suffering from homesickness  
finding a good place to have the



## The Kidz:

The kids are adjusting pretty well. They love the playground and the fact that they don't have to wear seatbelts in the vehicles here (freaks mom out though). Mikah has made a new friend, Julian, but she will be leaving in two weeks. However, Mikah is starting kindergarten at Hillcrest on Monday, August 19. She's very excited about that and is looking forward to making new friends. Mikah has the unfortunate blessing of being blessed with yummy blood and has been bitten a lot by mosquitos.

Christiaan is doing okay. He also loves the playground. He gets really tired from the humidity here and doesn't want to take naps even though he needs to. So far his hearing aids are holding up okay.

Aidan is as happy-go-lucky as ever. He is happy to take his naps and happy to lay still for mom while she tries to put cloth diapers on him. His bum is so big that it is hard to find disposable diapers that will fit him. Most Indonesian children are trained by age 1! Maybe we will try to train him after a while....

It is really amazing at how quickly children adapt to new surroundings. They don't even pay attention to the things that we adults do. They accept everything as normal just like that.