

Feunekes Flight Path

Mission Aviation Fellowship

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Getting Settled In...

Well, we have survived one month here in Sentani! It has been a month of learning and adjustment. The culture here in Papua is very different than that in Canada. There are some very important things to remember when dealing with the local folks. One must always do things with the right hand as the left hand is considered unclean as it is the one you are expected to use when going to the bathroom. One must never point the sole of ones foot at someone as that part of your body is also considered unclean. You would be surprised at how quickly you can forget these things and make a faux pas.

However, the people here are a gentle people unconcerned with time. It is more important to them to spend time with a friend they met on the street than to be on time for an appointment. They are very friendly people and love to touch your young children. They especially love Aidan's big squishy cheeks.

We are also learning to adapt to the food here. You cannot go to the supermarket and buy big bags of frozen vegetables. Vegetables and fruit and meat are bought fresh at the local pasar (market) or if you drive a ways you can buy

them at a supermarket in Abe. The other option is to wait until someone comes to your door to sell you some. Once purchased all vegetables should be washed in a pk solution to kill any bacteria. It is also a good idea to wash the outside of fruit before cutting into it. There are many interesting



Hugo and the tilt table that he fabricated.

tasty fruits here. We have lots of pineapples growing right outside our door and two coconut trees in front of our house. Don't walk under them or you risk a coconut on the head.

There is a local "supermarket" where you can purchase a dazzling array of goods. From motorcycle helmets to yummy New Zealand cheddar to chocolate sprinkles. It is amazing what you can get if you have the money.

We are also getting used to eating more rice. Potatoes are not easy

to get here. If you find them they are usually very small. They are good, but it is less work to prepare some rice. There are also varying degrees of quality in rice. We have found some that has been imported from Thailand and is very clean and very tasty. It is also very cheap. 5Kg is 40,000 Rupiah or \$8.00

Canadian.

Bread can be purchased at the "supermarket" but is of no nutritional value and is usually only used if there was a power outage and Erica couldn't bake bread. Otherwise all bread is made by hand. The loaves get better each

week. Yogurt is also homemade. There is milk powder here that is 40% fat and makes nice creamy yogurt. Add a little strawberry jam and you have a tasty dessert. Bugs are an issue, but not as much as we thought they would be. As long as you don't leave anything sweet out, you can curb the amount of ants in your home. Ant poison is also effective, but means that you must regularly sweep up mounds of dead ants. Our home is sealed quite well so the big bugs stay outside and only the ants and lizards come in along with the odd cockroach. But we have spray for

Life in the Hangar....✈

Hugo has been busy working in the hangar and the radio shop even though his tools have still not arrived. He first worked to clear the back log of instruments needing repair. More recently a Cessna Caravan came in for regular maintenance and Hugo has been working on its autopilot. He also flew to Wamena in an aircraft that was having problems with its radio. When in Wamena he replaced a broken ELT (Emergency Locator Transmitter) in one of their aircraft. The flight to and from Wamena gave him a good idea of how an autopilot needs to work here in Papua. In addition he has been repairing audio panels from various aircraft including those from other mission organizations. He also fabricated a tilt table to be used when testing autopilots, radars, and other flight instruments.

The Kidz...

The kids are adjusting well to life here. The large playground on base here provides a major source of fun for them. They are also learning to say a few Indonesian words like selamat pagi (good morning) and terima kasih (thank-you).

Mikah has started kindergarten and loves her teacher. She is attending Hillcrest International School for Missionary Kids. There are quite a variety of nationalities represented there with the majority being American. It is a beautiful school with a large library available for the whole family. Mikah is also making some new friends there.

Christiaan is the proud owner of a new bike that we bought for him. It is his first two wheeler-with training wheels of course. He gets tired here from the humidity and the noise. Our house is right by a busy street and there are always loud motorcycles and cars driving by. We also live a ten minute walk from Jayapura International airport and we regularly hear jets and large prop planes taking off. Regardless, he loves it here and is enjoying spending time in the mornings with just his little brother. Christiaan's speech is also showing improvement.

Aidan is really growing up. He is able to do almost everything that Christiaan can on the playground. The fireman's pole is just a little bit too scary yet though. He is also talking even more than before and his vocabulary seems to grow daily.

Thanks for:

Adjusting well to life in Sentani.
The supporting folks back home who have been emailing us and encouraging us.

The pregnancy going well so far.

Prayer for:

Someone to deliver the baby at home if possible.

Energy in the humidity.

Continued good health

Christiaan's hearing aids to hold up

The rest of our totes to arrive.



The kids under the umbrella tree in front of our house.

Contact Info:

We would love to hear from you! If you want to be on our weekly update list let us know.

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