



As Christians, we have so much to celebrate—our salvation, Christmas, Easter, births, baptisms... But have you ever celebrated the anniversary of the gospel coming to your village?

A couple of weeks ago, the village of Yapil did just that, and I had the privilege of joining them. The gospel first reached their small hamlet in the Eastern Highlands in 1973, and they gathered to remember that moment in a meaningful way. A large cross now stands as a visible reminder, and the church leaders are intentionally passing down the story—making sure the next generation understands the darkness their community once lived in and the transformation that came with the gospel.

How amazing is that?



*Excited men from Yapil in traditional dress danced celebrating special guests arriving for their special celebration.*



*Everyone got in on the dancing, all chanting and singing in unison.*



*The big celebration was dedicating a cross they had built commemorating the coming of the gospel-the first two missionaries-in 1973. They don't want to forget how their lives have been changed. I don't want them to forget either.*

We're trusting in God's perfect timing as we prepare for our final departure this June. We feel like the Lord is leading us to close this chapter of our lives and begin a new one.

A meaningful part of that transition was having all of our children and grandchildren visit for three weeks—what a joy it was! We filled our days with favorite activities and returned to the people and places we've cherished over the past 30 years, saying our goodbyes along the way.

It was a deeply rich and memorable time.



*We had a wonderful visit with all of our kids and grandkids in February for a final good-bye hurrah!*

*L-R Peter, Hudson, Kelsey, Todd, Caden, Brad, Susan, Taylor, Amber, Devin.*

*And not to be left out...our 1980 Toyota Landcruiser and 1997 Isuzu Panther which have both served us faithfully since the beginning.*



*Taylor and the other kids each got to ride along with me for a day. It was fun to hop around to different villages together serving the translators and local people.*



*Amber (middle with the hat) and friends at one of our village stops. We dropped supplies off for the Bible translators and picked up some school teachers.*



*Amber's husband Devin rode with me to a little village tucked high up in the mountains called Volmimpi. We visited the kids in their new school house and Devin got to give them a little motivational speech and pray for them.*



*Meanwhile back in the kitchen, Susan, the grandma she is, multitasks holding Hudson while getting dinner ready for everyone.*



*Todd is good at helping out in the kitchen too. "I, have, snack, Grandma!"*



*Brad, Caden, Peter, and Todd braving the thorny pineapple garden to get some pure yumminess.*



*Caden was keen to help Grandpa drive "Therapy". That's our boat. It's been so great to have Therapy since we got it 24 years ago. Lots of wonderful memories, relationships, skills, and confidence built! It will be a*

*sad day to part with it.*



*Kelsey, Amber, and Taylor first did the pyramid back in 2012. Taylor was the same height as Kelsey then. Last month Devin, Amber, and Taylor recreated it. Fun trick!*



*Our trusty little diesel-powered Isuzu did a fine job of carting all ten of us around on all of our various outings. The kids especially enjoyed driving again on the left side of the road. And I enjoyed being chauffeured!*



*One of our regular destinations: street food! That's missionary kid comfort food at its finest!*

*Caden, Kelsey, Amber, and Devin watching their "cooked bread" being made. Sometimes it's "bright moon" or fried bananas on the menu.*



*Peter and Kelsey in a tropical paradise. We spent a couple nights at a little "resort" (use the term loosely) where we swam, snorkeled, played in the sand, played games, and.....swam with whale sharks!*



*Whale Sharks! Such an amazing animal made by our Creator. We swam with eight sharks the first day, and seven the second. Here's Taylor checking out one of these gentle giants.*





*The grandkids enjoyed sitting up on the fishing platform and watching the whale sharks from six feet above. And sometimes they even took rides on Grandpa's back swimming with the sharks. Do you think Caden knows what lurks just below the surface?*



*We'll be saying goodbye to Indonesia soon. And we're thinking ahead to what is next and are getting excited about the next steps.*



#### Praise

- All of our kids and grandkids were able to visit us all at the same time. So great!
- North Creek Church is arriving soon to put on a Wycliffe Family retreat over Easter Weekend.
  - For you, our faithful supporters.

#### Prayer

- That we will finish well before our departure the end of June.
- For wisdom navigating our next assignment with Wycliffe in the US.
- For a good time of refreshment, fellowship, and teaching at the retreat this weekend for Wycliffe members.
- For the paperwork for our donated Caravan to come through so we can import it soon.