



# MISSION NEWS

Mission Activities of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia

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# KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

Guest Editorial

Rev. R Bredenhof

Over the last few months, I have been enjoying conversations with a number of missionaries and mission workers about their task. These interviews are a part of my efforts to become familiar with the highs and lows, the whys and hows and wheres, of the work of mission. Before taking up my role as Professor of Ministry and Mission at the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary, I'd love to learn as much as I can about the work of spreading the gospel among people who don't know the Lord.

Each interview so far has been a delight. That's in large part because all of my interviewees have a wealth of knowledge that they're keen to share. In preparation for doing these interviews, I put together a list of a couple of dozen questions. But so far I have found that there is little need to consult my question list. The experiences and lessons and stories typically come gushing out with little prompting from me. I just have to sit there and try to remember everything that I hear!

Having now listened to a handful of brothers (and one sister) who have laboured—or are labouring—on the mission field, I've started to notice some interesting points of connection. They have worked in diverse places among widely disparate populations, but there are definitely some similarities in the things that they choose to highlight as important.

One common element that all my interviewees have shared is the importance of coming to a deep understanding of those you're telling the gospel to. You have to know your "target audience," and be properly sensitive to their context in order to communicate God's truth to them. Such a knowledge goes well beyond an ability to understand and use their native language—which can be no small challenge in itself! But it requires a person to know something about their cultural practices, social priorities, group values, and worldview. In many ways, you want to learn what is beneath the surface for the people to whom you're ministering.

For instance, why would an otherwise faithful Christian turn to the village witch doctor when prayers to God for healing go unanswered, or when conventional medicine doesn't help? What are the layers of thinking behind such a choice, and how can you respond in a way that is both sensitive to the person and faithful to Scripture? Or what should a

Chinese Christian think about the practice of sweeping the family tomb once annually? Does this imply a pagan veneration of the ancestors, or is it basically a harmless custom?

Every culture has its own views on how to establish good interpersonal relationships, on the place of authority, on the obligations that are inherent in gift-giving and receiving—the list really is endless. In short, a missionary wants to know the deeply engrained patterns in the mind and heart of his audience, and then also be ready to show how the truth of God’s Word addresses these matters.

You don’t attain such knowledge by scanning the Wikipedia page on the people group that you’re ministering to, or even reading a book or two about them. As one missionary put it to me, “You have to be a student of their culture.” Being a student implies that you’re committed to ongoing learning. And for a student, there is a progression in knowledge, going from the rudimentary elements to the more advanced.

This kind of learning requires a good dose of curiosity. As you listen carefully to what people talk about, as you watch them relate to one another and “do life” on a daily basis, be prepared to admit when you don’t understand. And when you don’t understand, dig deeper and ask questions. As another brother put it, a missionary should always be humble when encountering another culture and its foreign (to us!) practices: “Sit on the floor,” he said, accepting instruction, seeking clarity—and not quickly providing the “correct” answers.

I imagine that for a missionary, accustomed to being in the position of a teacher with authority, this could be an uncomfortable experience. Uncomfortable, yet so necessary. For a missionary seeks the opportunity to connect the transforming power of the gospel of Christ to the lives of these particular sinners. If he knows his audience at a deep level, his presentation of the gospel will be more focused, and it will be more connected to their own realities—and God willing, it will also be more effective.

These encounters with other cultures are often

challenging. The things that people have believed and practiced from the time of their youth are not quickly forgotten or dismissed, even when they are shown to be in conflict with Scripture. One worker advised: “When you meet a strange or even sinful practice, always remember to think of yourself as a sinner needing the same gospel of salvation.” After all, we too, are indelibly shaped by our culture when hearing and responding to the gospel. Michael Horton writes, “It’s easy for people like me to pick out the distinctive ways in which ‘others’ (nonwhite, non-Western) bring their biases to the Scriptures. It is much more difficult for me to examine my own spectacles—especially when I’m wearing them.”<sup>1</sup> With patience and humility we seek to understand people, and with prayer and diligence we seek to submit together to the truth of God’s Word.

This is where a missionary’s quest to understand his audience is valuable for us all to consider. God calls us to be faithful prophets, confessing his name in a world so devoid of his truth yet in such desperate need for Christ. Carrying out our prophetic task, perhaps we assume by now that we know our message (it’s a good question, though: how would you present the gospel of Christ, given the opportunity?). We know our message, but do we know our audience?

How well do we know the people around us, our neighbour and our work colleague and our hairdresser? What makes our fellow Australians tick? What cultural values are they shaped by? What are the rituals they have to give higher meaning to their life? Maybe we assume that we know what Australians are all about, but do we really have a deep understanding of the people we encounter every day? What are their longings and regrets? What do they think about death, and truth, and forgiveness? How do they experience a need for the saving gospel of Christ? When we better understand a person, we can better speak the gospel into their life. So let’s ask, let’s listen, and then let’s tell.

<sup>1</sup> Michael Horton, *The Gospel Commission: Recovering God’s Strategy for Making Disciples* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2011), 121.

# CHAIRMAN'S MUSINGS

Southern River Mission Board

Frank Janssen

Once every year, the field gets a visit from the Mission Board. The purpose of the visit is to witness first-hand the work that is being done, to spend time with the families, and to share the joys and trials of the work face to face. There are also opportunities to expand on some current proposals/ thoughts which strengthens the board members understanding of the work and allows for more insightful discussions at future Board meetings. For the past two years COVID threw a spanner in these plans, with the last Mission Board delegation visiting the field in October 2019 for the onfield conference.

However, the Lord has opened the doors for travel again, and it is with thankfulness that I can be writing this report from PNG in 2022. Sister Elaine Vandebos and myself are currently visiting the field and today marks exactly half way our visit. (So, you will have to wait for the next edition of the Mission News for the second instalment of this report ☺).

Our first port of call was the Reformed Churches Bible College (RCBC). This was not intentional, but due to a flight cancellation it was nice to be whisked away to RCBC for a night after some redeye flights and long breaks. The following day we arrived safely in Lae and met up with the consistory of Lae, the school board and the teachers (see photo). It would be easy for me to go into all the little details, spend many paragraphs to explain it all, but this isn't the place. However it should be said that it is simply amazing to see Gods handiwork in the Living Water Christian Church. They have a very



“when you have been able to witness the growth and maturity over the many years (admittedly via a distance for us as board), you cannot but feel amazed at the work of the Spirit.”

clear understanding of their purpose as a church. They love their church plants (Wantun and Hila) and reported that they have a very good working relationship with the Mission Team (who report to them once per month about our activities). They were looking forward to the Sunday on which they were going to have three baptisms, five public professions of faith and Lords Supper (on top of a visit by Brother Mark Mulder who was encouraging the congregation to consider going to RCBC). We also visited the school and spoke to the teachers and school board. Once again, the love for the work here to assist the covenantal teaching in the church to the students shone through. It would be easy to visit and reflect saying; that's nice, what a wonderful church and school, both very devoted to Christ! This would be all be true, but when you have been able to witness the growth and maturity over the many years (admittedly via a distance for us as board), you cannot but feel amazed at the work of the Spirit.

On Sunday and Tuesday we could visit Logos Reformed Church in Wantun. On Sunday, it was for a worship service and on Tuesday it was for the dedication of the new building and the Mama's bung (think Womens League Day/week).

I would love to share with you stories of exciting river crossings, muddy tracks, tricky four wheel driving etc, but that would be lying, its very dry at the moment, so the driving was respectively very uneventful (but the views were amazing), although seeing some of the destruction after the earthquake was eye-opening. Sitting under the faithful preaching of Pastor Tony will be one moment that I will not forget. He was very gracious to us Aussies, and threw some English into his sermon, but if you focused hard enough, even from the Tok Pisin you could get a lot from the sermon. Here again, if you had just visited, sat down, and listened to the sermon you would have be blessed by it. That would have been an experience in itself, but when you know (again from a distance), the ups and downs of the congregation, the training of the Pastors in RCBC (and the lives they led before), and to then see a congregation listening intently to the Reformed preaching (with an occasional stare at the white people) it's just simply amazing to see the Spirits work here too.

And if you still were not convinced by the faith of the churches in PNG, then on Tuesday you would have left with no doubt. Admittedly we rolled into Wantun a little late (our fault), but when we arrived there was around 60 women



from Hila, Wantun, Lae, Veifa'a, Beretete, 9-mile and East Boroko waiting patiently for us. They were all present for the Mama's Bung. The first hour of the Mama's Bung was the opening of the new church building (see photo). Following this there were two speeches, by Pastor Tony and Pastor Ryan deJonge. (Pastor Isidore was to give a speech on Wednesday and Pastor David Pol on Thursday). There was a school presentation to the Mama's from Logos School by the children (see photo) which was very exciting for them and for the Mama's. After the speeches the Mama's got into different groups to work with the speeches and support one another. It was a blessing to see many different tribes (many wearing their home colours) sitting with God's word open on their laps. It was also such a blessing to see that the youth and the men of Wantun prepared everything, and did everything so that none of the Mama's had to lift a finger for the support of the event. And whilst this might not sound very surprising, this is very un-cultural and here too we can see the work of Christ not be limited by boundaries or cultural norms. Pastor David returned on Friday (with sister Erika and sister Merinda) to relay that the event went very well. There had been no major issues and at the end of the meeting all the leaders started talking about the next Bung to be held in 9-Mile (POM). I know this is getting repetitive, but it was such a blessing to witness this faith in the churches in RCPNG.

As I sit in one of the guest houses in Ukarumpa, pondering on the blessings of God on the work here in PNG, I can only feel humbled that we are able to witness such work by the Spirit in our Brothers and Sisters in PNG. We are so blessed to have faithful workers in the church, but also the Mission team who continue to support the work here and walk side by side (and sometimes deliberately a little behind) the indigenous Pastors and the elders. When the Markham Valley (Wantun) was shook up a couple of weeks ago by the earthquake, Pastor Tony shared that they visually witnessed the mountains shaking. I am not surprised if the preaching, the singing and the worship in the Markham Valley also shakes the mountains every Sunday. To God be all honour and Glory!

And now its about time to head off into the day and find out what the RM team here has in store for us to witness and enjoy today. On Sunday we plan to go and see our Brothers and Sisters in Hila DV and then next week we will be in Port Moresby. Hopefully I can muse about that in the next edition of Mission News.

#### Prayer points:

- Thankfulness for the growth and faith that can be witnessed in the Reformed Churches of PNG. May God continue to bless this growth.
- That God will be with all the Mission personnel as they continue their task with the Reformed Churches of PNG.
- That we all keep Mission work alive in our families and churches in Australia so that we can continue to support the spreading of God's word.
- That God will guide the work so that a call can be made for a missionary in Port Moresby and the harvest there can be attended to.

## HOW TO PLANT A CHURCH (X)

# CONTINUING RELATIONSHIPS

Southern River Mission Board

Pastor Ryan De Jonge, Lae PNG



Mission Board chairman Frank Janssen addressing the Wantun congregation in a recent visit.



Women's Conference in Wantun

A few weeks ago, I led the worship service at the Living Water Reformed Church in Kamkumung. For me, it was a beautiful and moving experience. It was a joy to see so many familiar faces (and to shake as many familiar hands). It was a delight to join with the beautiful singing, something that has always been a strength of that congregation. It was encouraging to hear of the profession of faith of five new members, all of whom we had significant contact with during our time in Lae. This visit was special and good and heart-warming and there was no issue with my being present there even though Living Water church is instituted and now exists independently of any missionary involvement. The reason for this is the topic of the ninth step in the Pauline Cycle: Continuing Relationships.

As mentioned last time, when a church becomes independent of its missionary support, it does not mean it ceases all contact. Not at all. Rather, the nature of the relationship changes. A good illustration of the same dynamic is what happens when an adult daughter gets married and moves out of her parental home. The wedding is not a time of grief because now her parents will no longer see their beloved daughter; rather, it is a time of great joy along with sober reflection as both parties realize that now the relationship has permanently changed.

When Lae was instituted in June 2019, things started to change but slowly. I still attended some meetings, only when asked to. We wrote a letter to the consistory informing them that we were going to stop picking up members of the congregation. This was partly because we were understaffed at the time but also because we wanted the Lae congregation to take ownership of these kinds of matters. Our family (and later the van de Kamps) kept attending church every Sunday and

this continued for 2.5 years until we moved to Ukarumpa. Moving to Ukarumpa, which is a four-hour drive from Lae, was also born out of a desire to properly redefine our relationship with Lae, but we were very thankful that by the time it did happen, it was much more of a change (and sense of loss) for us than it was for the Lae congregation, who during those 2.5 years had taken over nearly every aspect of church and congregational life.

Overall, we can be very thankful for how the transition after institution went for Lae, especially considering how involved we the missionaries had been over the years. This positive experience serves us well as a template for future institutions, the Lord willing, although the dynamics of those will likely be much different since we live much farther away from Wantun and Hila and thus are less involved in the day-to-day life of the congregation.

The relationship with the missionaries (missionary/church) is not the only important one for a new church. Relationships with other churches (church/church) and the relationship with the sending churches (church/mission) are also important.

Regarding church/church relationships, we can be thankful for the forethought of a previous “generation” of missionaries who encouraged the churches to meet together at least yearly as a provisional classis. The Reformed Churches Bible College has also been a catalyst for unity as it has not only housed and trained all

our national pastors but has also hosted many, many church-unifying events. Church conferences (“bungs”) for youths and women have also helped to build strong relationships between church members all over the country.

As to the church/mission relationship, since most of the contact the mission had with the church was through the missionaries, nothing noteworthy happened after the institution of Lae. We hope that once there is at least one other institution church in PNG and we can drop the “provisional” proviso, the Reformed Churches of PNG can pursue more formal sister church relationships with our sending and supporting churches. We have even gone so far as to encourage our national pastors to pursue getting a passport, as they may one day be asked to represent their fledgling denomination at a broader assembly in Australia, New Zealand, or, if they can handle the climate change, Canada.

Relationships are very important in Papua New Guinea. As a culture, they recognize much better than we do that no one is an island and that interdependence is crucial for survival. Healthy, interdependent relationships with missionaries, other RCPNG churches, and overseas sister churches will be very important for the Reformed Churches of Papua New Guinea moving forward. Since we serve a Lord who through his death and resurrection builds strong, life-giving relationships, we are confident that the Reformed Churches of PNG will continue to have healthy relationships too.



Provisional Classis Beretete, August 2022



# THE GREAT SHAKE

Pastor Ryan De Jonge, Lae PNG

When the worst part of the aftermath of a 7.6 magnitude earthquake is that your internet has slowed to a trickle, then you are very blessed indeed. This is how we feel after the massive quake that rocked PNG on 11 September 2022.

Our family had just finished watching the recorded worship service of Southern River from the previous week, in which Southern River intern Dathan Pleiter had done an admirable job handling the word of God in Genesis 39. We lingered for a little while around the tablet, discussing the sermon, and then I went to make a coffee before we headed out to the 10:45 am English service here in Ukarumpa. It was at that moment, at about 9:45 am, that our house started to shake massively. By God's gracious providence, our entire family was within 3 meters of one another, with a large table in between us. We quickly ducked under the table, something we have verbally and mentally rehearsed many

times, living as we do on the Pacific Ring of Fire. So we were all safely together as the shaking continued for about 15 seconds, only to increase in power at that point and cause a great amount of noise, emptying cupboards and bookcases, clearing our counters onto the floor, including the microwave, which landed right on top of a pile of glass casserole dishes.

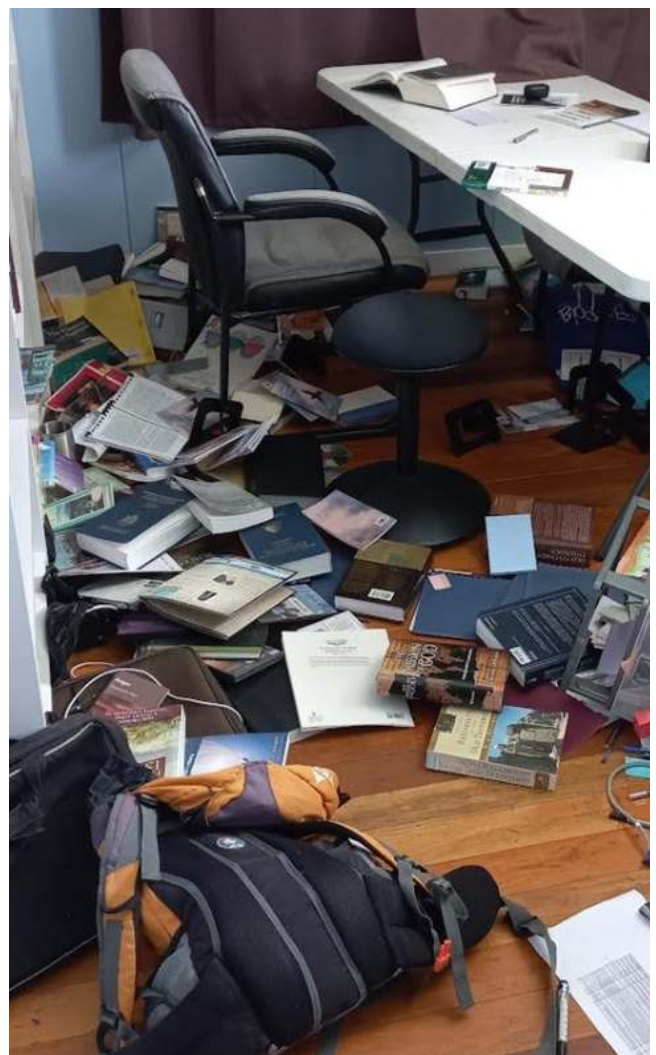
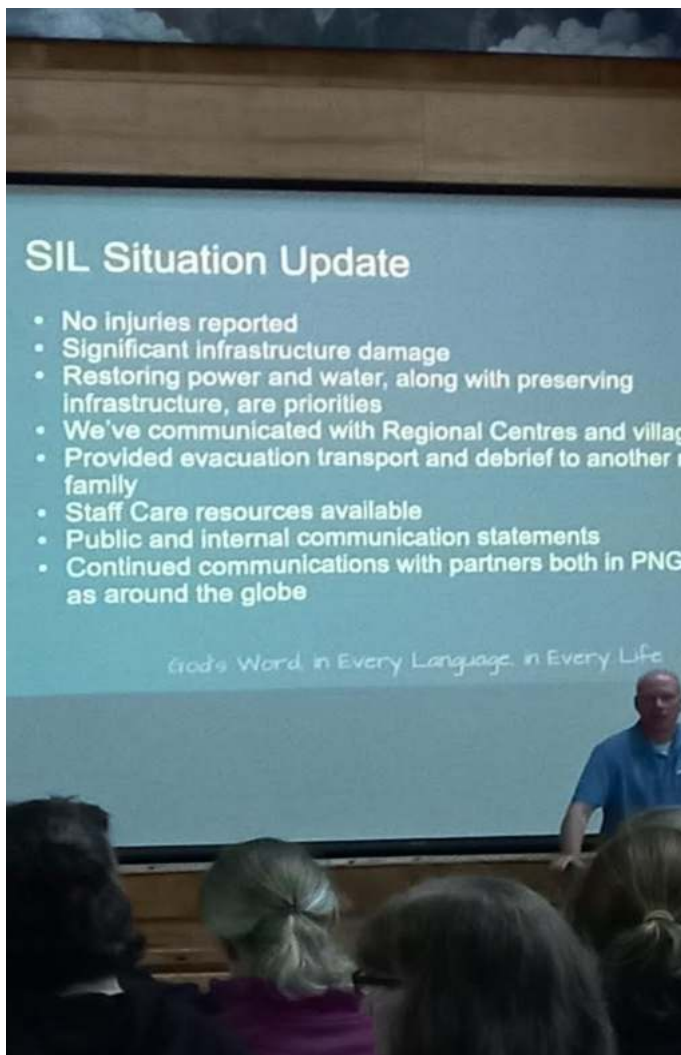
After the shaking stopped, we were able to take stock of things. While there was a large mess and many things broke, the house appeared to be intact. We sent Whatsapp and text messages around, quickly hearing back from some while others took longer to respond. We discovered that the van de Kamps were fine. Their house sits on a concrete pad on the ground while ours is on wooden posts so they didn't feel as much shaking. The Pols were in Hila and after a few hours, we heard that they were okay. They had just started the worship service, felt the shake, and carried right on. The Lae



congregation had done the same. We didn't hear from Wantun for quite a while and were worried because they were much closer to the epicentre than we were, but when we did establish contact, we heard that the earthquake had affected their water supply and knocked down the house of one of the members. Otherwise, they were all okay.

Over the next 24 hours, the whole picture of the earthquake slowly emerged. Several houses in Ukarumpa were majorly affected, but none of them so bad that their owners had to move out. Many steel water tanks broke. The store, the woodworking shop, and the auto shop all had very large messes to deal with. But amazingly, not one person on the centre was hurt. In all seriousness, the biggest impact of the earthquake has been the lack of internet. A major undersea fibre optic cable that runs from Sydney, AU to Madang broke in several places and knocked out the high-speed internet that services about a quarter of the country. They are saying it will take two months to fix. In the meantime, the internet has been either nonexistent or frustratingly slow.

Throughout the country, seven people died from the quake and hundreds of houses fell down. While this is sad and difficult for those affected, we realize that it could have been much worse. A teacher at the Ukarumpa High School shared with me that Guatemala, where he grew up, experienced a 7.4 quake in 1976 that killed 23,000. The Lord was very merciful in sparing this country from a much greater disaster. Our hope and prayer is that many here will also recognize both the Lord's power and His mercy in this event.



# MISSION INDONESIA

Eric de Haan

Greetings readers.

Yes, it has been a while since you heard from Mission Indonesia, but truth be told there has not been much official information forthcoming from Sumba. We have been busy with the normal responsibilities of maintaining support for the evangelists and the physical requirements of the mission posts. As most, if not all mission boards will agree, we tend to get more requests than reports□, so I have dedicated much of this article to the types of requests we receive and how we would respond to them.

Things were slowly improving in Sumba after the cyclone and covid restrictions, but then they were hit again recently in many areas of Sumba with a severe locust plague which has decimated many crops and suffered the loss of much livestock due to diseases in cattle and pigs. They can't seem to catch a break! Amongst all these setbacks and difficulties, it was good to see on a recent Deputies visit, that the spirit and resolve of the people is not broken. They continue to see that all these difficulties are coming from the LORD's hand, and that it is He who will ultimately give them relief. We are encouraged to hear of the continuing gathering of God's church through new members who have been brought to faith, and internal growth through marriages and births in the mission posts.

First news from Bali, where things are slowly getting back to normal. They experienced a huge exodus of members back to Sumba when almost all businesses were shut down due to covid. Their numbers are now increasing again, and I have heard reports of up to 55 members now

living in Bali. This now presents them with a problem in arranging worship services, as the former restaurant building which they had been using for worship over the past number of years has recently been sold, and they have had to vacate the building almost immediately. This has meant a return to worship services at the home of Rev Yan Praliaminya. Anyone who has been there for worship would agree that this is not ideal, given the limited space available (seating for approx. 20) and the location, which is in a small residential street in a predominantly Muslim area with little room for parking.

I had the opportunity to meet with the group in Bali whilst on my way back from Synod in Sumba, and they were excited to inform me of a possible solution to their problem. As purchasing land is not a viable proposition



Rev Yan preaching at his home in Bali

due to land prices being similar to Australian prices, they have managed to secure the long-term lease (20-25 years) on a plot of land close to Denpasar. The land is in a much nicer, more affluent, and much more accessible district, with quiet tree lined streets and large houses with many Chinese expats living there. There are also large plots scattered among the houses where rice paddies are still being worked. The Bali group hope to be able to erect a simple manse and church building on this site. The hope is also to have more opportunity to spread the gospel from this location, as much of the local populace generally has come from an area where the Gospel was traditionally suppressed, and many will not have heard about Jesus Christ and His saving grace. Rev Yan is confident that he will be able to work effectively among the locals in this area and has already been busy introducing himself within the neighbourhood. The one downside to this proposal is that after the lease expires, the land and any buildings erected will revert back to the owner. When I asked Rev Yan about this, his response was “We will trust the Lord to provide us with an alternative when that situation arises, and in this time the group may have been able to save for their own land”

The group in Bali will themselves arrange for materials and labour to build the manse and will be seeking support for the cost of the church building.

We have also had a request for a new church building at the mission post of Watupatah (Padiratana) in the south of Sumba. As you can see from this letter, God has blessed this mission post with significant growth, having more than quadrupled in size, and left them with the problem of a church building which is not only busting at the seams figuratively, but also structurally as it is in a bad state of repair.

Having a functional church building is not only important for their own wellbeing and benefit, but as can be seen from excerpt of letter received, they see a building as an important tool for involving & inviting the wider community to participate and benefit from the activities of the church. This is especially important as most isolated or rural villages will have no public buildings for community use.

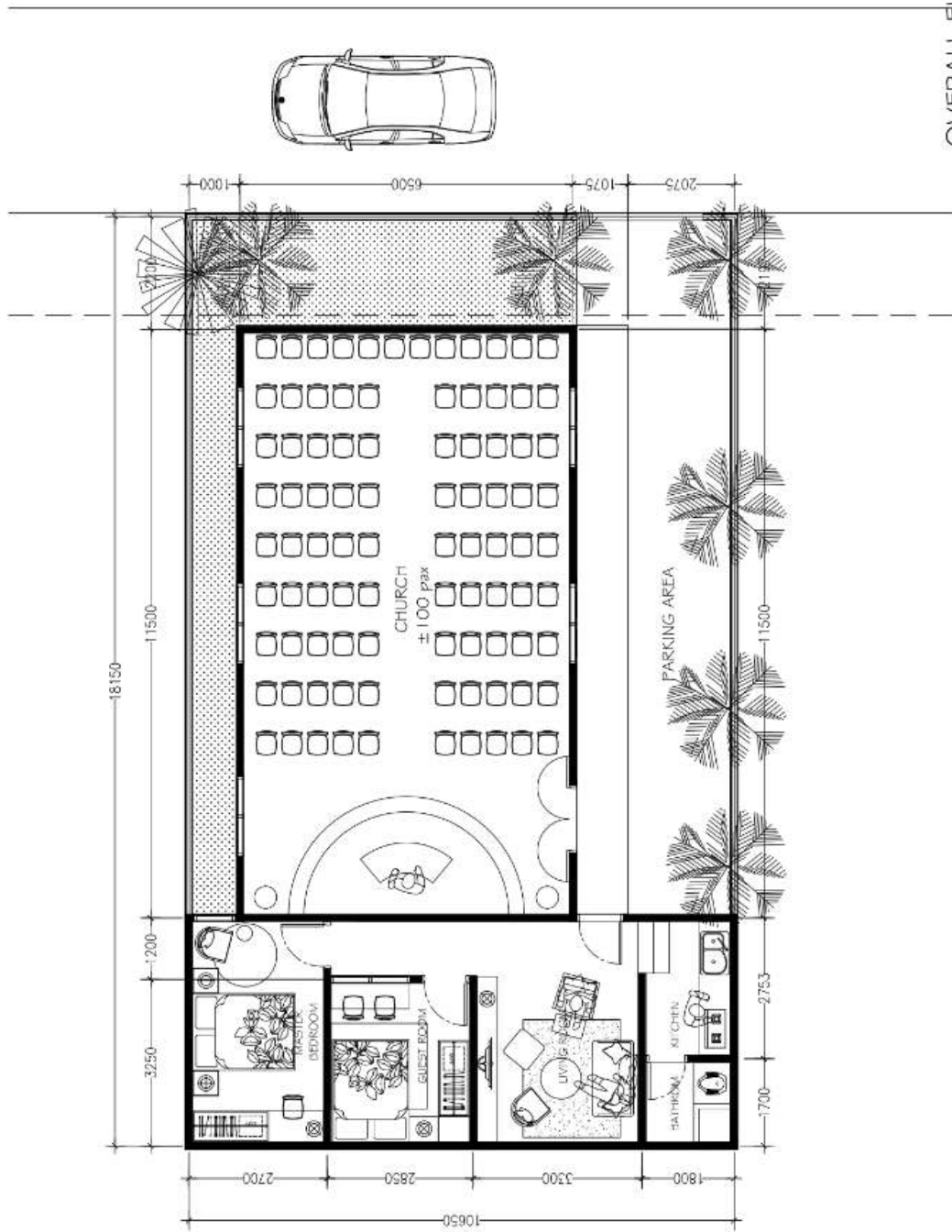
*“This mission post at Watupatah is located in the village of Ananjaki region of Karera Sumba Timor. It is along the road about 4 Km from the centre of Padiratana. This mission post of Watupatah has grown very quickly, when you consider that the congregation when it first begun in 1987 had a membership of only 14 persons. At the beginning this small congregation held its worship services in the home of one of the members. In 1989 the congregation built a very simple building (so they had somewhere to meet) with a size of 4LM x 5LM. For 18 years this simple building was used until 2007. After this time a permanent*



Rev Yan standing in location of manse



Church location with parking on left



OVERALL FLOOR PLAN

LANDSIZE = 193 sqm  
 BUILDING SIZE = 122 sqm



Consistory members GGRI Padiratana



Locals at Kapehu

*building from cement was constructed with a size of 6LM x 8LM. This more permanent building is no longer suitable for the congregation as the congregation has grown in size by more than 60 persons, and the condition of this building is not good as it is starting to fall apart, it will not last much longer than about 5 more years.*

*To ensure the congregation of Watupatab can continue to develop also with their task of evangelism a new building is desired. When considering the GGRI in general but especially the branch of Watupatab, this congregation is becoming fairly well developed which could lead to institution. For this reason, the congregation wants to develop itself and have a good relationship with the government and other churches so that when a new building is erected the church can also become more active in holding church activities in their area. The building committee with the congregation also would like prayer support from all parties, may God the King of the Church bless this construction so that it will be a useful tool in the building of Christ's Kingdom and for the benefit of the churches. We will use the support from all the parties, both material and non-material as well as possible in a responsible way and will report to all parties who support this building program of the progress that is being made of the construction of this new church building of Watupatab branch of Padiratana.*

These requests for financial support which are not directly linked to our mission posts, or for capital works projects, are tabled for consideration at our mission meetings. As committee members have usually visited these areas, and are familiar with their circumstances, a recommendation would normally be made to Mission

Aid to support such a request if finances are available.

As mission committee we sometimes get asked “how do you determine which mission projects to approve, and what does this process involve?” To give readers an understanding of the process, I have included a recent request from GGRI Padiratana, one of the GGRI churches with whom we already have 2 mission posts supported (Watupatab & LaAu), and the subsequent steps that we would take in approving this request. Of course, receiving a request from a church with whom we already have set up an established support mechanism, greatly reduces the timeframe and work involved in setting up a new post.

*“Proposal to support new mission post of Padiratana at Kapehu.*

*1. Introduction.*

*1.1 Background information regarding the mission post of Padiratana at Kapehu.*

*The mission post of Padiratana at Kapehu is the result of bringing the gospel from the GGRI congregation Nggongi-Padiratana. The work of bringing the gospel to Kapehu has already been carried out by the consistory of Padiratana since 2015. At the time we started at this place, we had a member of the congregation living there who has been willing to use his house as the place of worship. Therefore since 2015 until 2022 the congregation has been worshipping at this home.*

*The work of bringing the gospel has been shared by the consistory on a roster basis every Sunday. The congregation has now grown to have 27 people worshipping there.*

*This post is located in the region of Nggongi, and it is along the road from Kapehu to Nggongi.*

### *1.2 Background to bringing this proposal.*

*The outlook for bringing the gospel to this place looks very promising, and besides that the location is very strategic, so that the Lord willing we will see a good response to the gospel. For these reasons the consistory is keen to arrange a church building as the biggest obstacle to attracting new members is no place of worship. They are currently gathering in the house of a member. A place that is permanent and a place that is church will help a great deal in spreading the gospel.*

### *1.3 The direction of this proposal for the mission post at Kapehu.*

*The consistory of Padiratana wants the Church of Padiratana to be a living Church. A living church is one that is active in spreading the gospel, opening up mission posts in many places within or outside of Sumba. A church that is not active in the work of mission is a stagnant church. For this reason, the church of Padiratana always remembers the great command given by our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 28: 19-20 to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth.*

## *2.*

### *2.1 The proposed church building in Kapehu.*

*Considering the location and good prospect of evangelising in this village, we propose to build a church with a size of 9M x 7M. Our proposal is to build this building up to the stage of plastering so that it is complete enough to be used.*

### *2.2 Material.*

*See list of material and costing on Indonesian copy of proposal.*

*Total cost of material budget Rp77,520,000*

### *2.3 Cost of labour.*

*The labour cost to build this building to a size of 9LM x 7LM up until plastering stage will cost Rp20,000,000. Therefore, the total budgeted cost will be a total of Rp97,520,000 (Australian \$9,800*

## *3. Closing.*

*So far, our proposal with regards the building proposal, it is our deep hope and prayer that we will receive a positive response from*

*the mission committee, so that soon we can continue with this great command of spreading the gospel. May our Lord Jesus Christ grant His blessing on all our plans as we seek to serve Him in this work.*

### *4. Proposal to support the cost of the evangelist to serve this post at Kapehu.*

*The outcome of our consistory meeting of Padiratana held on 27-03-2022 at Kapehu, it was decided to call brother Yan Domu Marabongu MTH. This brother has completed all his studies at our own College from 2011- 2015, he then continued his studies at Salem from 2016-2017 and then 3 more years 2019-2021 at STT Aletheia. Brother Yan Domu is married and has 4 children which all already attend school.*

*This brother has already received our call and has given a positive response, he agrees to live in the village of Kapehu. This means this brother can dedicate all his time in Kapehu to spread the gospel. For this reason, the consistory of Padiratana comes with a request to the mission committee to support Padiratana for this work with a suitable salary considering the needs of the family. It is our deep hope and prayer that the mission committee will give a positive response to this request.*

*So far, our proposal to continue in the work of the Lord, together with the cooperation and support of the mission committee to spread the gospel also in Sumba Indonesia.*

*Warm Greetings on behalf of the consistory of Padiratana.”*

As you can imagine, these are requests that we as mission committee love to receive. The church in Padiratana has done due diligence to covering the main points we need to consider in order to approve support for a new post.

There must be no other Christian church in the immediate vicinity. This prevents poaching of each other's members and ensures the work is done among those who have not heard the gospel previously.

There must be good prospect for future growth and prospects for establishing a future church in that area.

The evangelist must be qualified, having studied for at least 4 years at the theological seminary in Sumba.

When such a request is received, our first step is to discuss at committee level to see if it fits within the mandate we have received from our own church. If all

seems good, and if we do not have an imminent trip planned, we will contact them to give preliminary approval. This would allow them to arrange logistical matters such as moving the evangelist to the new location, arranging temporary lodgings & arranging schooling for the children. Then at our next mission visit, we arrange a visit with the consistory where we would discuss matters such as, the future prospects for the location of this new post, the requirements for the evangelist and his family, and the level of support and monitoring given by the sending church. We would also discuss the method and frequency of reporting by the evangelist to his consistory, and subsequently to us as mission board. As mission delegates we would then travel to the mission post to meet with the church community, and the evangelist & his family. If the post is in a remote location, a meeting with the village head is often required, as his permission is usually required to build a church and allow weekly worship gatherings outside of a member's home. A personal discussion will be held with the evangelist on what his appointment would involve, on matters such as weekly free text and catechism preaching, arrangements for the sacraments to be administered, Family Bible study & Catechism instruction for the youth, and how he would go about his task of preaching the gospel to unbelievers. We would also discuss his personal requirements such as stipend, living arrangements, need for transport, library requirements and computer and phone allowance. Obviously, this varies depending on the location of the mission post, and the family requirements of the evangelist. We would also consider the number of people currently attending worship services and take into account their financial circumstances, and their ability to contribute towards the costs of the mission post. Once all these matters have been clarified, we would meet together with the evangelist and his consistory to arrange for agreements to be signed. These agreements would normally be for 5 years when initially starting a new post, and then for 3 yearly periods thereafter. It is not unusual for it to take 15-20 years to transition from a fledgling mission post to being established as an independent church.

Normally we would expect detailed reports from the consistory at least 3-4 times per year, and we would also arrange to visit the mission post at a minimum of once per year.

I hope this gives the reader some insight into the work involved in approving requests for support of new mission posts. As always, we (and the Indonesian churches) covet your prayers for this work. May God continue to bless the spreading of the Gospel throughout the world, so that His Kingdom may come quickly.

On behalf of Mission Indonesia.

Fear not, for I am with you;  
be not dismayed, for I am  
your God; I will strengthen  
you, I will help you, I will  
uphold you with my  
righteous hand.

Isaiah 41:10



# NEW HOPE UPDATE

New Hope

Femmy Dethan-Bouwman

It is with great thankfulness that we report that the work of New Hope continues to be a blessing to so many children otherwise deprived of education, healthcare, food and drink and spiritual guidance. The new arrivals have settled in well and are adjusting to their new lives at the New Hope home.

**Accommodations:** We are very thankful to report that the girl's have taken possession of their new accommodation! The temporary quarters they were in were very cramped and had some leaks in the roof. You can just imagine how super excited they are to have more room and a good roof above their heads!

The new kitchen and dining/study area was finished as well. It is so wonderful for the New Hope family to be able to have meals together again in one place and to be able to do their homework around tables instead of on their laps!

We are very sad to report that the boy's dormitory has suffered some damage, due to a large tamarind tree that





toppled over. Amazingly, nobody got hurt! We suspect that the tree suffered damage to its roots because of the cyclone last year. Unfortunately, it fell on the roof of the dormitory, causing considerable damage to the building. It being the dry season, the boys can still stay in the building, hopefully we are able to get the roof fixed before the rainy season starts.

**Health and Nutrition:** Currently we have to keep everyone healthy and well, hygiene and nutrition play a huge role. Most children come from economically poor backgrounds and are typically not well informed about the importance of cleanliness. For most, water in the villages is hard to get by, they may have to walk 2 km down hill to the nearest river, fill up old gas jerrycans and lug these back up hill to be used for drinking and washing. Needless to say that water is being used sparingly! As a result, skin conditions such as ringworm, scabies and impetigo are a persistent problem. Upon their arrival at New Hope, children receive an overall health check and are treated for such conditions. Unfortunately, every once in a while a condition goes unnoticed or the child is too embarrassed to tell. Such was the case with a ringworm outbreak in June. This went unnoticed for a while and spread like wild fire. One of the children was brave enough to tell nurse Esther, for the itch had become unbearable! Turns out most children had been contaminated and thus a thorough treatment was called for. All bedding, towels and clothing were boiled and washed, mattresses and pillows sunned as much as

possible. Several rounds of treatment were needed to finally eradicate this persistent 'bug'! The children learned that it is better to prevent than to treat, that it is not a good idea to share towels and clothing, and of course how important it is to treat a problem early on.

Besides this ringworm episode, the flu bug made its round several times, a few cases of dengue fever and malaria which got treated in time and full recovery was made. One girl currently has a bad case of hemorrhoids, this is another quite common problem. Most people are not aware and/or do not have access to good nutrition. For man, a plate of rice along with some instant noodles sums up a good meal! The lack of fruit and veggies does not sit well for most digestive systems; thus many suffer from hemorrhoids and stomach ulcers. Sadly, the parents of the girl figured it would be better to have her treated by the witch doctor in the village, believing that sickness is a result of a curse someone must have placed on her.

At the home the children are provided with three meals a day consisting of rice, veggies and some sort of protein. The children are all involved in cleaning, gardening, taking care of the animals and cooking. This is to help reduce the cost of food and to instill a good understanding of the importance of general hygiene and wellbeing. We are very thankful for the space on the property which allows for a large veggie garden, a couple of fish ponds some goats and a pig.



**Community involvement:** God's word is central at New Hope. All parents/guardians have agreed and signed that their children will be instructed in the Bible and attend the Reformed Church and participate in Church activities. Every day the word is being read, studied and discussed under guidance of the councillors and house parents. A large amount of time is spent in the church community as well where they are active participants in Catechism classes, Young People Society and small group Bible studies. Together with the Young People Society they have been active in the local community in terms of helping the elderly and community clean up days. It is our hope and prayer that through these efforts God's love and care is shown.

**Challenges:** We are truly grateful that the Covid-19 virus seems to have run its course in West Timor with a low impact in terms of fatalities related to this virus. Unfortunately the effects of the lockdowns continue to have a devastating impact on the economy and thus the

people's well being. Two weeks ago the Indonesian government decided to increase the gas price by 30%. As is the case with such an increase, everything else jumps in cost as well except people's salaries. Business has come to a screeching halt in West Timor, people that have cars are using motor bikes instead, Restaurants and hotels are desolate, farmers are stuck with their crops and are hesitant to start new crops. So far there is no sign that gas prices will come down again. This increase in cost of living results in a lot of fear. Many people wonder whether they will have enough to buy food, pay bills, debts and school fees. Already people realise that the impact of the gas hike is far worse than having had to deal with Covid. It is our task to continue to lift our eyes unto God, to truly believe His promise that He will be with us, that He is our God, that he will strengthen us, help us and uphold us with His righteous Hand.

In Christ's service.

Please pray for:

- Teachers at Elpida (New Hope Schools)
- Perseverance and trust in facing these difficult times
- Wisdom, patience and strength for the house parents and councilors in guiding the children in their care.
- Dedication, patience, hope and for the New Hope children
- Enough funds to repair the boy's dormitory

# LOGOS GLORY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Mission Aid PNG

Elaine Vandebos

I recently had opportunity to do a field visit to PNG as part of the Southern River Mission Board. A highlight of my trip were two visits to Wantun, a group of villages in the Markham Valley northwest of Lae. The Reformed Churches of PNG have a church plant there, led by Pastor Tony Aufa.

The families in the Markham Valley are subsistence farmers who earn money by selling produce from their gardens.

Papua New Guinea has a high rate of illiteracy, and in some places, fewer than 60% of the population can read. School attendance is sporadic and the quality of education in the public school is poor. Education is expensive and families find it challenging to save the money needed to pay the tuition fee to go to school. This impacts the church in Wantun, and prior to the start of the Logos Glory School, few children were able to attend school.

Pastor Tony and his wife Regi recognised the need for the children in their congregation to learn to read, to enable them to read God's Word and learn more



Logos Glory students singing at the Mama Bung in Wantun 27 September

“..students in school are generally older than children in Australia, so the average year 2 student is around 9 years old.”

about God. They had a desire to establish a Christian School for the children of their small congregation and so the Logos Glory school began.

Logos Glory School caters for students from preprimary through to year 2. Students in school are generally older than children in Australia, so the average year 2 student is around 9 years old.

The school follows an American homeschooling curriculum, “My Father’s World” which is ordered annually from America.

There are two teachers in the Logos Glory School. Regi teaches year two and a preprimary class, each group in their own classroom. Clara, the other teacher, teaches the remaining students. Class numbers vary and the

children in the school are from both the church families and the community.

I had opportunity to speak with both Clara and Regi while touring the school. Both displayed a strong love and passion for teaching and, up until the beginning of 2022 were doing their work in a volunteer capacity.

Together with Reformed Ministries NE PNG, the school has put in a request for sponsorship of their students. Through the assistance of Mission Aid, each church member who attends the school receives a scholarship covering 33% of their tuition. This has enabled more children of the church to attend school.

While the money raised by tuition covers the basic running costs of the school, it does not cover the cost of



Clara (left) and Regi (right). The 2 teachers.  
The boy is Regi's son Asaph.



Logos Glory school. This is a temporary structure.  
The permanent building is in planning

the “My Father’s World” curriculum nor wages for the teachers. Mission Aid NE PNG has agreed to support Logos Glory school so that Regi and Clara can to receive a stipend for their work and the curriculum can be purchased and shipped to PNG.

The church in Wantun has plans for a more permanent school building to be erected in the near future. Land has been cleared for this, and the community is raising funds to build the school. When asked about funding the new school, Regi stated that this will be the responsibility of the parents, as this is their school.

It was beautiful to see the dedicated, faithful work of Pastor Tony, Regi, Clara and others in the Wantun church. They have recently built a permanent church structure and will, in the near future, move from meeting under the mango trees into their new building. May God continue to bless the work of Pastor Tony and his consistory as well as the work of the Reformed Ministries team as they continue to preach His Word in the Markham Valley.

Mission Aid currently raises its money through private sponsors and through the Birthday appeal. When you receive a Mission Aid envelope in your pigeon hole in church, may I encourage you to remember the needs of the Christian schools in PNG and support them with a generous heart.



Letter from Alex to supporters in Australia. This is his rough draft. When he was finished and Regi helped edit it he copied it on paper to send to Australia.



The area in front of the school was recently cleared to prepare for the new school



Year 2 classroom. Regi teaches this class as a preprimary class

<http://missionaid.frcarmadale.com/>

# COLLEGE CORNER

Reformed Bible College, PNG

Mark Mulder

After enjoying a lovely furlough, both Liz and myself are back at the RCBC, back home. Holidays are great, but being back home, enjoying your own bed and familiar surrounds is wonderful. We've been created to do work, and I sure couldn't wait to get back into the driver's seat. Ps Cor and the rest of the team did a great job in keeping the college 'running', for which we're so thankful. It was also nice to be greeted by the students, who were genuinely happy to see us. Having been on holidays for quite a length of time, eating 'rich' food and not exercising too much, did mean that some weight was added to our torso. The students picked up on this very quickly, and one even commented that my belly wobbled. I just love that honesty. ☐ An excellent motivation to go on a rigorous diet.

We have just completed Block 5, and right now I'm in Lae so that I can make an RCBC presentation to the Living Waters FRCPNG. Our brothers and sisters in Lae aren't fully aware of what the college offers and how the college can be of benefit to the churches, so the Board of Governors was keen for this presentation to happen, in the hope that we might attract a number of applicants from Lae. Time will tell.

The students have been doing well, both academically and socially. By socially I mean their interactions with one another. With many of our students being 'young' Christians and coming from different parts of PNG, we have often have to deal with conflicts and unnecessary aggression. Fortunately, this year there has been very little of this, for which we are extremely thankful. We do spend a lot of time in our morning devotions with the student body, teaching them what scripture says about being "the lesser", about servant hood, and about the fruit of the Spirit.

As staff we continue to enjoy each other's company, and I'd like to think we operate well as a team. Here, too, there is much reason for thankfulness. Working together in close confines 24/7 could easily lead to minor issues becoming major sticking points. That's not happened; instead, we all recognise each other's strengths and weaknesses and through the grace of God, we can accept the weaknesses and enjoy the strengths.

Planning has commenced for 2023. Ps Henry Versteeg and his wife, Rita, have already indicated their desire to help us in Block 1 and 2. This is very much appreciated and will allow Ps Hans, his wife Lisa, and son Leo, to enjoy an extended vacation in Australia and NZ.

The college continues to grow infrastructure-wise, with the plan to build 2 Campus Worker's houses in Jan/Feb. If there are any volunteers (preferably carpenters) who would love to experience PNG we will happily accommodate you, if you, in return, could donate your time (2 weeks), skill and energy in constructing these 2 houses. Send me an email (markmulder64@gmail.com) and I'll furnish you with more details. We are thankful that Ron de Vos is coming at the beginning of November, dv, to assess our electrical setup. A major rewire is needed, and though we could use electricians from here, unfortunately we get conflicting messages from them, and it becomes very obvious that they're keen to 'line' their own pockets.

So; lots happening and all very exciting. We know that our heavenly Father is in control and so while we plan, and get excited about potential outcomes, we acknowledge that our outcomes may not eventuate because our LORD may have an even better plan with superior outcomes.

In Christ alone.



A great bunch to work with. The Versteegs on the left, the Vaatstras on the right, with Richard peering over the top of them. Next to Richard are the Dotingas. Leo Vaatstra is standing between Liz and Jane.



# CHILDREN OF LIGHT

## Guest Article

Isabel Postmus-Pakereng

### A New School Year – 2022/23

With thanks to the Lord, COL can continue to support the needs of students in the Reformed Churches in Indonesia. The Soli Deo Gloria Organisation in Sumba, Indonesia, has been blessed with a large enrolment of students for the new 2022/23 school year. 52 new students enrolled in the Reformed Christian Senior High School, starting in Year 10.

Most of the new Year 10 students are from distant villages that have a Reformed Church but no Senior High School available in their district. Some of these students were supported to attend Middle School previously in their area while living at home. So the total number of all Year 10-12 students at the Reformed SHS is now around 100+.

After some years of running the Reformed SHS with 3 classes, one for each school grade, this has presented a

challenge for both the boarding home facilities and school classrooms. As there are now two Year 10 classes, the teachers' offices and desks were shifted out to an older building, to make space for an extra classroom. The new students attended a few days of orientation, and we were able to take photos of the Year 10 group of about 30 girls and 20 boys.

In the boarding home, the beds and boarding room dormitories had to be increased and extended. We made two extra sleeping dorms available that were previously closed up for some time. Additional bunk beds were put in place. Further, new student cupboards for 30+ students were constructed in an open locker/cupboard system. A few of the older cupboards were not in good condition anymore, and usable hardware was made useful elsewhere!

Further, the boarding home facilities had sufficient



New group of Year 10 girls



New group of Year 10 boys, with some teachers



Work in progress - preparing a set of 8 new cupboard/locker/shelf units for students



Students in the boarding home area, sitting at tables, studying



Students on the school grounds



Students preparing large pots of boiling drinking water

seating for about 80 students before. So now we are in the process of making some extra tables and wooden benches, and ordering more stools for sitting, for meals and studying. We are very thankful for the funds made available for all of these practical needs.

We have a few photos of the Reformed SHS students, as they sit in class, stand outside on the school grounds, prepare boiled drinking water, and study at the tables. Lastly, some of the students are preparing for the flag raising ceremony and school parade on 17 August, for the Indonesian Independence Day celebration.

The increase in student numbers has led to an increase in the need for support for the Reformed Christian SHS work. Teachers' wages needed for the school have risen about 15% over the past three years. Further, the

boarding home food costs have risen about 30% more than previously due to the additional student numbers and the rising cost of food, oil and transport expenses (petrol or 'pertalite', etc).

We hope and pray that the Lord will bless the work of COL and our sponsors and donors. We pray that this work may continue for raising a generation of Reformed students who have a greater understanding of the Bible, Reformed Confessions and Church History. May our work and your support be for God's glory and the gathering of His Church.

With much thanks for all your support,  
On behalf of the Soli Deo Gloria Organisation



Students in one of the school classrooms



Practice for the flag-raising ceremony and the Indonesian Independence Day school parade

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# BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

October – December

Mrs Cheree VanderWal 20.10.86  
 Timothy DeJonge 20.10.12  
 Samuel DeJonge 31.10.10  
 Mrs Greta Kleijn 02.11.83  
 Mr David VanderWal 19.11.85

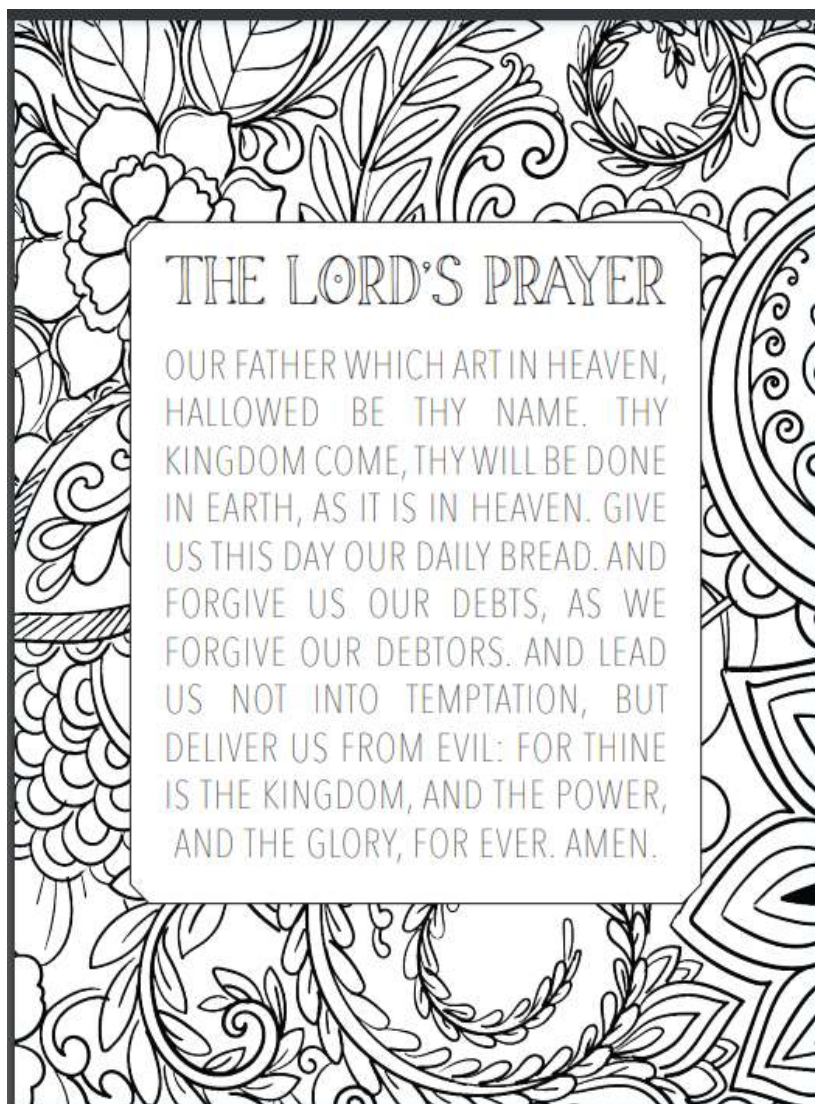
Mrs Erika Pol 01.12.96  
 Zachary Dejonge 05.12.18  
 Makenna VanderWal 09.12.17  
 Mrs Merinda van der Kamp 17.12.91  
 Benjamin Kleijnl 19.12.09

# KIDS MISSION CORNER

Prayer is a very important part of being a child of God.  
God wants us and loves it when we pray and talk to him.

In our prayers we remember who God is – Our Father in heaven, Our king! We talk to him about everything in our life, asking that he will be with us and help us all the time.

We finish the prayer with Amen – a confession that we believe God hears and prayer and will answer.

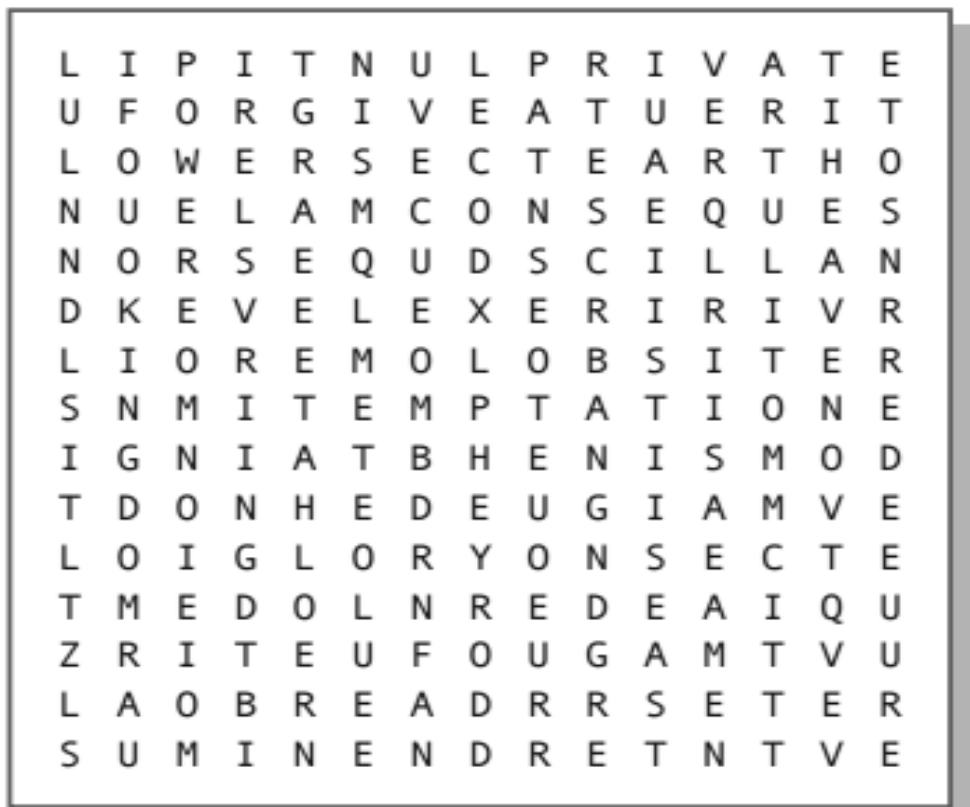


# PRAYER

It is important to remember the missionary workers and their families in our prayers.

- We ask the Lord to bless their work so that the Bible message can go to many people.
- We ask that the Lord protects the missionaries so they can preach and teach well
- We ask the Lord will look after them every day while they do their normal things.

How will you pray for the missionaries today this week?



AMEN  
BREAD  
DEBTS

EARTH  
FORGIVE  
GLORY

HEAVEN  
HONOR  
KINGDOM

POWER  
PRIVATE  
TEMPTATION

# MISSION COMMITTEES

Indonesia • Papua New Guinea • Philippines • Sabu • Sumba



### Mission North East Papua New Guinea

**Sending Church:** Southern River

**Cooperating Churches:** Armadale, Byford, Darling Downs, West Albany, Southern River

**Supporting Churches:** Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Launceston, Legana, Melville

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**General Deputy:** R Dekker (DD)

**Meeting Secretary:** R Plug (By)

**Report Secretary:** D Hordyk (By)

**Treasurer:** E Eikelboom (By)

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D Terpstra (DD) V vanDyke (DD) E VandenBos (SR)

D teWierik (SR) N Dekker (WA) Ben Hordyk (WA)

Carl Plug (WA)

**Missionaries:** Rev R & Mrs R DeJonge, Rev D & Mrs E Pol

**Mission Workers:** Mr B & Mrs M van de Kamp

**Web:** [www.frcmissionpng.org](http://www.frcmissionpng.org) ; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/271603523844307>

### Mission Aid North East Papua New Guinea

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**Treasurer:** Carina Dekker

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**General Member/Correspondence:** Joel Bruning

**Mission Board Liaison:** Elaine VandenBos

**Web:** <http://missionaid.frcarmadale.com/>

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### Mission Indonesia

**Sending Church:** Rockingham (R)

**Supporting Church:** Baldivis (B)

**Chairman (contact):** Br E DeHaan (R) [eric@zenecon.net.au](mailto:eric@zenecon.net.au)

**Vice-Chairman:** Br B Bosveld (B)

**Treasurer:** Br B Bosveld (B)

**Minutes Secretary:** Br B Pleiter (B)

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**Correspondence Indonesian:** Br B Bosveld (B)

**Consistory Liaison:** Br A Byl (R)

**Member:** Br J Moesker (R)

**Evangelists:**

Rev Muriwali Yanto - Malang

Rev Markus Ndhijawa - Tanabanas

Rev Yan Pariamalinga - Bali

Rev Balla Rihi - Maubukul

Br Jhems Umbu Ngabi - Lae Wunga

Rev Arison Pekambani - LaAu

Br Yan Laki Ngella - Lai Hobu

Br Melkianus Kalambar Tara Amah - Watu Bara

Ev Jekson Kambaru Windi - Dampit (java)

Ev Novianus Benyamin - LKaingada & Katundul

**Web:** <http://mission.frcrockingham.org>

### Mission Sabu

**Sending Church:** FRC Launceston

**Committee:** Chris Lee, Sarah Heys, John van Asperen

**Pastors:**

Reverend Mada Bihah

Reverend Windi Kurung

Reverend Djara Wadu

Reverend Amos Ndawa Mada

Reverend Yohanis Here Pa

**Evangelists:**

Brother Thomas Dida

Brother Lay Djama Riwu

### Mission Philippines

**Sending Church:** FRC Baldivis

**Chairman/Contact:** W. VanderVen [wvdv11@gmail.com](mailto:wvdv11@gmail.com)

**Members:** H deJonge (B) D Veltkamp (B) J Bolhuis (K)

Rev. S 't Hart (Mel) Rev. C Vermeulen (DD)

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Mission News Committee: Dini Plug & Bradley Dykstra

Article submission address: [plugd@jcs.tas.edu.au](mailto:plugd@jcs.tas.edu.au)