

# MISSION NEWS

Mission Activities of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia



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# PRAYER IS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL MISSION WORK

Guest Editorial

Rev. D. Poppe

One of the great gifts we have in Southern River is that we get to support and have oversight of the mission work in Papua New Guinea. The LORD taught us that it is his joy for the gospel to go out to all nations because he is a good God who delights in saving people from their sin and bringing them in a relationship of love with him.

So what does it take for the gospel to go out? Acts 6 is instructive. When the LORD poured out his Spirit and sent out his apostles to preach the gospel, then the church had a beautiful spirit of love and unity. People cared deeply for each other and showed that in many ways. But not everyone experienced things that way. The widows of the Hellenistic Jews were not being looked after like all the other widows. They started wondering: don't they love us or care about us? As a result they started complaining. In response, God appointed deacons, men full of the Spirit and wisdom who set things right and so restored the love and unity in the church.

And then it's really interesting to note why the apostles appointed these deacons. In Acts 6:4 the apostles give the reason the deacons were appointed. "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the

word." It is the task of the apostles, (ministers and missionaries) to give themselves continually to prayer and the preaching of the gospel. Now you all know that missionaries have the primary task of bringing the gospel to his people. In Paul tells Timothy to correctly handle the word of truth and to preach the word!

But then God also tells us that the apostles have a primary calling to devote themselves to prayer. And







what's true of apostles is true also of ministers, missionaries and elders. And in many ways it's true for all of us as members of Christ's church. In the famous passage of Ephesians 6 where Paul warns us that we will wrestle against the spiritual forces of darkness, he tells us of the importance of prayer. Ephesians 6:18-19, "To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel."

The only way that the gospel goes out is if we blanket the work in prayer. The only way that the work of our missionaries can be blessed is if we devote ourselves to prayer and ask God continually for his grace and blessing. Do you realise that prayer is essential? Do you give yourself continually to prayer? You know, it's possible that you wonder what that looks like. What are you actually supposed to do?

To answer that, it may be helpful to pay some attention to the ministry of our Lord Jesus. When Christ was on earth, his primary task was preaching and teaching. But did you realize that in the middle of all that, we are often told about how he went off and prayed. Prayer was a regular part of his life. If you read through the gospel of Luke, for example, you see how much Jesus prays. In Luke 3:21 we are told of how he prayed at his baptism. Luke 5:16 tells us, "But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray." In Luke 6:12 we are told that he spent the whole night praying prior to the time of choosing his

twelve apostles. Luke 9:18 tells us of another time when he was alone praying and the disciples came and joined him. Later that same chapter we are told that the reason Jesus took Peter, James and John up on the mountain was because he wanted to pray. He was often going off, sometimes for long periods of time in order to pray to God. His work was soaked in prayer. His prayers led the disciples to ask him to teach them to pray in Luke 11:1. In Luke 18:1 he told the parable of the persistent widow in order to teach them to pray always and not lose heart. Luke 22 tells us that in the hours before his crucifixion he pleaded with his Father that this cup would pass from him.

The reality is that the ministry of our Lord Jesus was soaked in prayer. He talked to His Father in heaven about all the things that he was busy doing. He also asked God for the things he needed. Christ had a deep and intimate relationship with His Father and he depended on Him in prayer. Is that also a description of your life? I am not sure how often you go away by yourself to a quiet place to pray. Have you ever spent the night up in prayer? Will you set aside quiet time so that you can talk matters over with your Father in prayer and intercede on behalf of the people you love? If you need a further encouragement to pursue God in prayer, it's good to realize that it was not only our Lord who prayed. This is also the life of his apostles. As you read through the book of Acts, you often read of them praying to God. Before they did things, they first prayed about it to God. In times of need, they appealed to God for help. At times, they just went to



quiet places to pray. Acts 1 tells us that before choosing a replacement for Judas Ischariot, the apostles first prayed to God. In Acts 2 we are told that the people continued steadfastly in prayer. Before the deacons were ordained in Acts 6, first the apostles prayed to God. When the apostles heard that the believers in Samaria accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John there who prayed for the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8). In Acts 9 Peter prayed over Dorcas, asking God to bring her back to life. Acts 10 tells us about a time when Peter withdrew to a lonely place to pray. He went up to the roof of the house to pray. Acts 12 tells us about how the apostles and other believers were gathered together in the middle of the night praying for Peter's release. They prayed before sending Paul and Barnabas on a missionary journey (Acts 13:3), before appointing elders in every church (Acts 14:23), and when they were in prison (Acts 16:25). Paul prayed with the Ephesian church (Acts 20:36) and with the elders on the beach before he left them (Acts 21:5). Paul also prayed for one of the leading citizens of the island of Malta where they were shipwrecked, and he was healed (Acts 28:8). When you read this over, then you see that these office bearers were very busy praying to God. Their work was soaked in prayer.

And you know, it makes sense. The reality of our situation is that we don't have the power to effect change in the lives of other people. We often seek the spiritual growth and maturity of those on the mission fields and of our loved ones. But only God can do that. In 1 Corinthians 3:6, Paul reminds us, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." One chapter earlier, Paul explained that no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. It is only when the Holy Spirit works in the hearts and lives of his people, that we can know God and put our faith in Him. And so what we need more than anything, is to ask God to use the word which we bring to effect change in the hearts and lives of God's people. You know, this is the one thing that I pray for virtually every worship service. In the prayer before the sermon, one of the things I ask for is that God the Holy Spirit would use the word that is preached in order to work faith in our hearts.



And then God also really encourages us to prayer by telling us about the outcome of our prayers. When you pray to God, that doesn't go unnoticed. God listens. He hears. He acts. In Daniel 10 we are told of how when Daniel prayed to God in order to understand and to humble himself before God the LORD sent an angel in response to his prayers. In James 5 we are told that the prayers of a righteous man are powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed and it didn't rain on earth for three years. He prayed again and it rained. God hears your prayers. He listens and responds to what you ask. Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you.

Prayer is not just this kind of extra thing that we turn to in times of real trouble or need. This is the heart and soul of the work of a missionary, minister, elder, parent, friend. You might say: it's not just an app that you click on from time to time. It's the operating system on which all the apps in your life function. Prayer provides the vital connection to God that is essential for any Christian. It took me a long time to learn it. I still haven't learned it sufficiently. But now I see that praying is an important part of my work. My job is not just preparing sermons and preaching them. It's not just about teaching catechism classes. It's not just about visiting. First and foremost, I need to take some quiet time in my study to pray for God's people. As elders we need to pray for our members. As parents we need to pray for our children. And as brothers and sisters, we need to pray for our missionaries and for the new believers in PNG and elsewhere.



And you know, the truth is that it's the most wonderful part of the task of a minister or missionary. When you love and want to help those people who are walking in darkness, then their lives are a mess. So many needs. Will they ever come out of the darkness and turn to Christ? It can seem insurmountable. Same thing closer to home. Your family members, friends, brothers and sisters in Christ are sick and discouraged. They are in trouble and anxious about how it's all going to turn out. They see with precision and clarity how great other people's sins are, but they are blind to their own sin. They need things and find it hard to trust in God to provide for them. They are stuck in sin and they don't understand the glory or the beauty of a life with God. You can talk and cajole, encourage and admonish. Sometimes we think that we can work change in another person. If only we tell them this, or admonish them like that, then they will change their minds. But it doesn't work. They don't respond. We've all had that as parents. What do you do then? You

pray. And pray and pray and pray.

Thankfully God can change their minds. And so the most wonderful, comforting, delightful time of your day is the time when you go to your Father in heaven and you bring your people to Him. You tell your Father where they are at, and you ask Him for Christ's sake to work change in them. And not only does God grant his blessing to his people. He also grants you the wonderful gift of peace. There is nothing more refreshing and invigorating than spending time in prayer with God. As you pray the Scriptures for your people, your own heart finds rest and peace in God. And then when you meet with them, you don't get caught up in all the immediate problems that they are struggling with. You help them to see who the LORD is, how he is at work in the situation and how find their rest in Him.

Did you know that your prayers are one of the most powerful things in the world? In Revelation 5 we are told



that the apostle John saw God on the throne in heaven with a scroll in his hand. On the scroll was written the history of our world. But he was extremely sad because no one could open the scroll. No one was able to bring the plan of God to pass. But then he saw our Lord Jesus Christ who came and took the scroll. But before he opened it, before history was unfolded, do you know what happened? Revelation 5:8 tells us, “And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.” The prayers of the saints were brought before the throne of grace. And then it is through those prayers that God brings to pass his plan in this world. Your prayers are powerful and effective. God listens to them and he uses them to bring world history to pass. It is as you pray to God for his blessing on the mission work and in the lives of your loved ones, that the LORD uses that in order to bring them into the kingdom of heaven. Pray for the Spirit of God that he might work powerfully in your heart that you may be diligent in praying for His people. And then pray, brothers and sisters. Persistently, earnestly, expectantly. God will hear you and use his incredible power to effect change in the hearts and lives of his people.

As churches we put a fair bit of effort into mission work. Our consistory has oversight of the work, and it’s a real joy. These days we get to hear from Pastor David Pol about the work that is being done. If you have a chance to go, then make sure you show up. It’s beautiful to really



know what’s going on. That way you can pray knowledgeably for the missionaries, the indigenous pastors and for the people in the churches. It’s wonderful that the mission board also keeps us well informed every other week about what’s really happening on the field and gives us some matters that we can remember in prayer. Let’s be diligent in doing so. Please pray. And pray some more.

And do you know the most wonderful encouragement God offers in this regard? When you pray for God’s blessing, then you are not the only one doing that. In Romans 8:34 we are told that Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God interceding for us. In Hebrews 7:25 we are told that He is able to save completely those who come to Him for He always lives to intercede for them. As you pray for the mission work and for your loved ones, your prayers are intermingled with the prayers of Jesus Christ. He too loves his people and is bringing them before the throne of grace. From John 17 we learn some of the contents of his prayers. Do you know what it mentions first of all? He glorifies the Father that the Father has given him authority to grant eternal life to those whom the Father has given him. “And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” John 17:3. Having eternal life means knowing God and knowing Jesus Christ. This is the foundational prayer our Saviour is praying for us and for all his people on the mission field.

What it means is that our missionaries need to open the word and preach the gospel to those who don’t know God. They have to teach them who God is and show them what God’s priorities are. But the only way that their work will bear fruit is if we join them in prayer. Will you pray persistently, earnestly, expectantly that God would bless the work and work faith and repentance? The greatest encouragement is that God will hear our prayers. It is God’s greatest pleasure to reveal Himself to us and to those who don’t know him. He wants to lead us to relationship with Him. For Christ’s sake, he will answer this prayer in ways that are beyond our wildest imagination.



# NORTH-EAST PNG

## MISSION

### Chairman's Musings

Frank Janssen

As I start these articles, I sometimes wonder what I will be writing about, and whilst I seem to be able to flesh out the musings at times, sometimes there just hasn't been much activity to deal with because it's just been work as per 'normal'. However, this time, I'm wondering if there is actually a word limit, because this could go off the charts. As such I have separated a section into another article, and will probably expand on the Board Visit to PNG in the first edition next year.

The last musings ended on the first Saturday of our visit to PNG at 10am, when our catchup meeting started with the field in PNG. Then from there, the next two weeks then flew by. It was such a joy to be on the field, meeting with the missionaries and their families, the support workers and their families, the other boards from New Zealand and Canada, and also the National Pastors and their wives. On the first Sunday we got to share Lord's Supper with the congregation in Hila and sit under the preaching of Pastor David. For me it was a joy to see this congregation again after visiting them in 2022. On the second Sunday, we got to worship with the congregation in Wantun, this time Pastor Ryan was preaching, whilst mostly in Tok Pisin it was good to follow on. It was a real joy to witness the maturity and growth in both congregations. God is indeed good to

the churches. Another item of note was the meeting that the Mission Boards had with the National Pastors and their wives, I have written separately about this in this magazine. Then there were then the other days of the visit that were full of activities but that will have to be another article for the next magazine in which I can expand on the visit.

The field visit happened in the first 2 weeks after the last Mission News. The next two weeks had a completely different focus for the Board. We welcomed Br Tim and Alana Slaa and their daughter Keziah to Australia. It



dawned on us that in the past 6 months, they had not been in the one place for more than a month, that's how much travelling they have done. There were two big events that we hoped the Lord will bless, and then there was lots of little events too, to compress into 2 weeks. The first major event was the Classis Exam. Sitting there in the audience (this was my first witness of a student entering into ministry Exam), it was an amazing testament to God about the work He has done at CRTS in preparing these brothers for the ministry. Whilst the questioning at times was all Greek and Hebrew to me, it was good to hear at the end of what was a long day, 'Brother Tim, you have passed, Congratulations.' The relief and joy were clearly evident to see.

Then the second event, the installation. With Pastor David Pol making it into Australia (see later paragraph) it was a wonderful day to witness the installation of Pastor Tim by Pastor David and Rev Poppe. Pastor David preached on Ezekiel 37. It was very striking to be reminded that if the Spirit isn't in the peaching and if the Spirit doesn't bless the preaching, you might as well be preaching to dead bones. However, when the Spirit does bless, even the dry old bones can be raised up again and confess Gods name. How much more can that be to those in PNG and Australia who haven't yet heard His name! Then Pastor Tim who preached on Sunday Afternoon in Southern River, was able to preach about the Suffering Servant (Mark 10) that instructs His self-seeking disciples what is really important in this life, including that we must suffer for His Names sake with our self-sacrificing. This was a beautiful Sunday in which it put the focus on the work of our Triune God and not ourselves.

Pastor Tim and Sr Alana also managed to catchup with the Board (either as a whole, or a lunch or dinner) and consistory with Southern River. We are very thankful for their time in Australia. As they temporarily settle back in Canada, it didn't take long for us to be informed that the Work Permit and Visa for PNG were approved. Now with the ability to plan in more detail, the Lord Willing,

they will make their way to the field in April, after finishing off their training with Dr deVisser and also Pre Missionary Training at MTI in Colardo. You can read more about that in his Introduction article in this edition of Mission News. We are so grateful to God in blessing the process so far.

We are also thankful that, in the end, Pastor David, Sr Erika and their childrens visas were granted for them to come into Australia (due to length of visit). Whilst they unfortunately had to miss out visiting Cairns, and lost a week for speeches, they have hit the road running, and by the time you read this have done numerous presentations in the schools (Albany, Capel, Byford, Kelmscott & College), presented to the youth about the Tulait Magazine, and done presentations in the Co-Operating Churches of Armadale, Byford, Darling Downs, West Albany and Southern River, as well as the supporting (sometimes combined) churches of Albany, Bunbury, Busselton and Melville. They hope to visit Launceston and Legana in early Feb 2024. It's been a blessing to hear of the updates and also for us to understand what Mission work we are doing in PNG. Here again we are very thankful for the support of all the churches who have chosen the work being done in PNG as their Mission Field. We continue to ask you for your support and prayers.

Br Ben and Pastor Ryan and their families hold the fort whilst Pastor David is away, and for them its work as usual in the support of the churches, in out reaches, in Tulait production, in general maintenance, in walking side by side with the nationals in PNG and the list continues.

Then I should also Muse and write about the Institution of Beretete, the departure of Pastor Cor Kelyn, the surgery of Br William, the D.Min course of Pastor Ryan, the assistance of Br Ben with the Pastor Building in Hila, the day to day activities of those working in the field, the graduation of the students at RCBC (Br Mark Mulder hopefully covers that in this magazine), the earthquakes that continue to rumble on, the ... and you can see that I have a word limit issue. Hopefully the fortnightly reports



in the District Bulletin (or your church's Bulletin) keep you updated on the fortnightly activities, and also give you suggestions for prayer points regarding the work being done in PNG.

And if I can, please be reminded about the fundraising for the setup costs of Pastor Tim in Port Moresby (at the time of writing we are at \$88,500 out of the \$172,500 target). If you are able, please support this cause, so that Pastor Tim and family can settle down in PNG and commence their work soon.



Nationals and Boards

## PRAYER POINTS

Pray with thankfulness that God has been so good to the Mission in PNG; in that He blessed the on-field conference, the institution of Beretete, graduation at RCBC and so on (refer to above musings for all the details).

Pray for the people of PNG as they so desperately need to hear the gospel, and pray for those who on Sundays and during the week, preach the gospel to the thirsty souls.

Pray for continued support from the Churches in Australia, as they get to hear the updates from Pastor David and Sister Erika, for the Kingdom work being done in PNG.

Pray that the fundraising effort for the establishment costs for Pastor Tim hit the target so that D.V. next year the building project can commence.

# SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

North-East PNG Mission

Rev. R. deJonge

The past few months have been busy and exciting for the mission work in Papua New Guinea! Here are a few of the highlights:

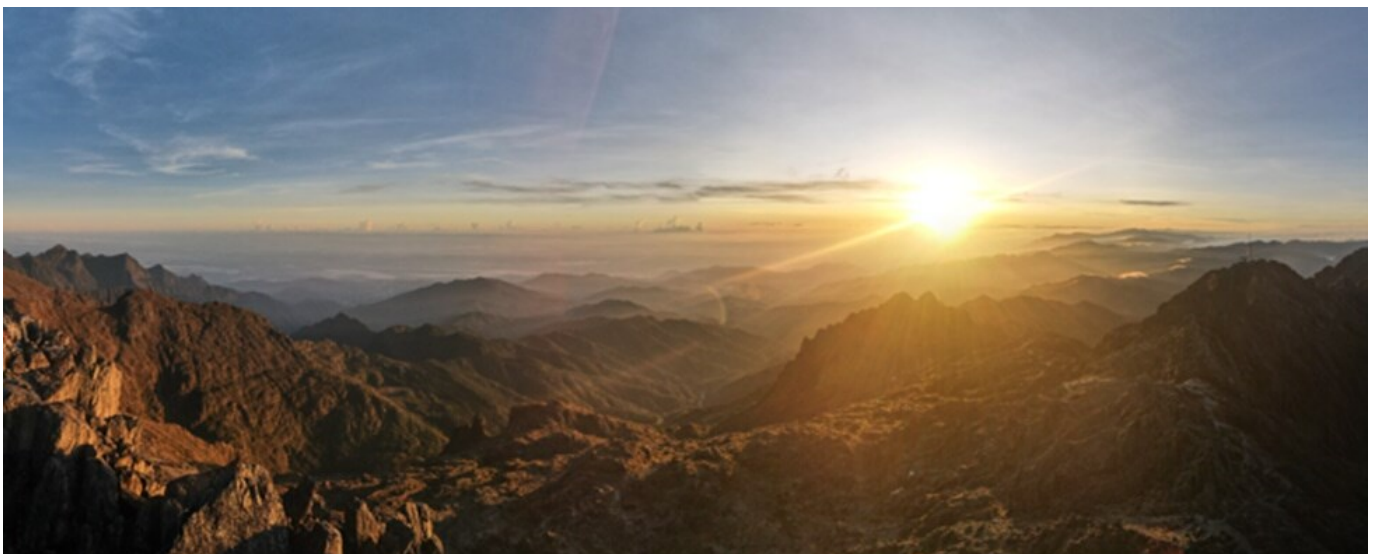
1. The Hila congregation grew by 14 members when ten adults and four children became members through profession of faith and baptism. Many of these new members had been with the congregation from the beginning, but due to various circumstances, they could not join earlier. It was incredible to hear their testimonies of being convicted by the preaching, turning away from sin, and growing in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!
2. I was invited to speak at the Teen Encounter Retreat for the teens in Ukarumpa. I delivered five messages over four days on “The Story of Your Life,” how we are united by faith to the (very true) story of Jesus Christ and what that means for our lives.
3. Pastor David had some interactions with a man in prison in Kainantu whose experience reading the Tulait Magazine while in prison led him to repent of his sins and lead others to spend their time praying and singing praises to God!
4. We hosted four conferences over two weeks in Ukarumpa with a total of 65 people from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Papua New Guinea (PNG).
  - A. The first was the Church Planting and Ministerial Conference with the pastors of the Reformed Churches of PNG (RCPNG) and their wives. This was a great time of sharing, learning, and fellowship.
  - B. This was followed by the Reformed Ministries (RM) Conference, the annual conference where all the RM personnel in PNG meet to discuss matters they have in common. The focus of this meeting was preparing for the On-Field Conference (OFC) with the mission board reps.
  - C. During the RM conference, the board reps met with the RCPNG pastors and their wives. Our chairman, Frank Janssen, has more to say about that in his article.
  - D. The OFC was the last conference and was attended by three delegates from Australia, two



from Canada, and one from New Zealand (unfortunately, New Zealand's other delegate could not attend). This was three days of discussing the RCPNG, RM proposals, and discussion points relating to mission work in PNG. It was good for everyone to sit in one room, speaking, listening, and building knowledge and trust about many different aspects of our work.

- E. In the evenings and weekends around the conferences, everyone enjoyed many excellent meals, fellowship, games, and singing together. It was a blessing to be a part of it, and we praise God for blessing every aspect of the conferences.
5. All three churches in North East PNG (Lae, Wantun, and Hila) celebrated Reformation Day differently. In Lae and Wantun, they gathered for games and a meal in the afternoon and watched a movie about the Reformation at night. In Hila, they visited the neighbouring community of Hairo for a night fellowship and heard a speech on the five Solas of the Reformation from yours truly.
  6. The Bethel Reformed Church of Beretete ordained two elders and one deacon, thus formally "instituting" as a church. This is the culmination of thirty years of the Lord's work in the congregation through many different missionaries, pastors, church leaders, and members. This event was marked with great celebration, a lot of food, and much giving thanks to God.
  7. The Reformed Church Bible College (RCBC) Port Moresby celebrated the graduation of seven students, six from the two-year certificate course and one from the three-year diploma course that follows the certificate. It was a day of great rejoicing and thanks to God. The student who graduated from the diploma course will begin working full-time for the RCBC as an assistant to the campus manager, and two graduates from the certificate program will continue into the diploma program next year. This was a bittersweet graduation ceremony, however, because it will be the last one attended by the Kleyns, the Vaatstras, and Richard 't Hart. Pastor Kleyn has already left PNG after serving nearly 12 years, Richard 't Hart will early in 2024 after almost eight, and the Vaatstras next June, having served for three. Please pray for these families as they transition to new countries, cultures, and careers, and also pray for the Toronto and New Zealand boards as they search for capable replacements for the RCBC lecturers.

Those are just some of the highlights of the past few months. To God be the glory!



# AN INTRODUCTION

North-East PNG Mission

Pastor Tim, Alana, and Keziah Slaa

Hello everyone! In the midst of our many preparations to move to PNG, it's about time we formally introduce ourselves to the supporting and cooperating churches, as well as give you an idea of what we've been up to and plan to be up to! I'm sure you'll hear more from me over the years, hopefully also in person, but an introduction is always a good place to begin. As you may already know, my wife Alana and I hail from the province of British Columbia in western Canada. In 2018, after I finished "Uni," Alana and I got married and made the trek across the country to Hamilton. During our time there we received from the Lord a beautiful baby girl, whom we named Keziah Marjorie. That's Keh-zee-ah to you Australians. She turns one at the beginning of December.

After a year of language studies and four very beneficial years of growth at CRTS, I was able to sustain my preparatory classis exam in June of 2023 and present myself for call! The Lord has been very good to us. After a very busy number of months of travelling across Canada, to Mexico, and to PNG, we were very thankful at the beginning of August to make the decision to accept call from Southern River to serve as missionary in Port Moresby. We are humbled that the Lord could make this so clear to us and that He's granted us much

peace in the meantime!

After spending a number of weeks with family, we made our way back to Hamilton in September where I could begin my studies for the upcoming peremptory classis exam in Australia. We were also able to begin the process of applying for work permits and visas. Once again we are humbled by the Lord's gracious provision in all of these things, because as I write this article, the peremptory exam is now a month behind us, the work permit was approved, and our passports are currently in Ottawa (hopefully) being stamped by the Australian embassy on behalf of PNG!

Of course that skips over a few weeks and months, but it's been a blur! Backing up to the beginning of October, we were able to celebrate my brother's wedding in Alberta before heading back across the Pacific for my classis exam. We spent about two and a half weeks in the Perth area and were able to meet much of the Mission Board, the Southern River consistory, as well as a number of the cooperating churches. In the midst of all of this we were overjoyed and humbled by the Lord's provision when I was able to sustain my peremptory exam on October 20, and then to be ordained on October 29. How the Lord is pleased to use weak and





sinful men for his service! May all glory be to his name. We greatly enjoyed our time among you and were all the more encouraged and convinced of your love and support. Be assured it will serve us well as we go about our task in Port Moresby, and we look forward to the next opportunity to meet more of you!

### **An Overview of the next little while (DV)**

That takes us to our post-classis preparations. For us that means logistics and mission training. When we landed back in Canada at the end of October I was able to begin an “Advanced Missiology” course with (the now somewhat) emeritus Dr. de Visser. This involves a three-month reading course, where I’ll cover the Biblical and theological foundations of mission work, the history of mission work, and its strategies and methods in the 21st century. I’m in the midst of this course right now and very much enjoying it. Coming straight out of Seminary

I’m very conscious of my lack of experience and knowledge, so any opportunity I have to build a foundation for understanding and practising mission and ministry are much appreciated! Meeting with Dr. de Visser every week or two also results in many enlightening conversations, not only in discussion of the readings but also drawing from his own mission experience. It’s important that I don’t just jump into the field with what I think I know, but to begin with a serious study of what the Word teaches us about mission, as well as to guard myself against the many faulty understanding of what mission ought to look like. The Lord willing, this course will give me a firm theological foundation before taking up our task in PNG. That being said, I’m sure it will be a lifetime of learning and mistakes and mistakes again!

In addition to this course of learning, Alana and I have begun our study of Tok Pisin with scratchy audio tapes,



vocab lists, recorded sermons, and course material. A very interesting language indeed! I'm sure our language learning won't stop for our entire time in PNG, but we've enjoyed dipping our toes in and we look forward to eventually 'putting it to work' in PNG.

Then in January 2024 we plan to travel to beautiful Colorado for the month where we'll take part in the Compass Pre-Field Training Program at Mission Training International. There Alana and I will have classes on language acquisition skills and growing in cultural awareness. It looks to be an intense month, but we're looking forward to all the learning we'll be able to do, as well as forming new friendships and growing personally.

In February I hope to wrap up my course with Dr. de Visser. If everything goes according to schedule with visas and other logistics, we plan to ship out our personal belongings at the end of February and then spend a few weeks with both mine and Alana's family during the month of March. All this is of course Lord willing, and

providing there's no unexpected detours in our plans, we hope to touch down in PNG around the beginning of April.

The plan from there is to spend the first number of weeks in Port Moresby arranging some practical details, before heading up to Ukarumpa for a couple of months. There we'll have the opportunity to learn from the deJonges and Pols, and more specifically I'll be able to take part in a preaching tour and otherwise observe and ask many questions of Pastor Ryan and Pastor David. We have much to learn, and pray that this time will serve us well before our transition to Port Moresby, as well as deepen our relationships ahead of hopefully many more years of working alongside each other!

In the month of July, Rev. Cornelis Kleyn hopes to be back in PNG to teach a block at RCBC. We plan to head to Port Moresby for that time so that I can spend some time with Pastor Cor, learning from his experience amongst the churches there and sharing his relationships that he's developed over the years. Again, we hope and trust this will be very beneficial in preparation for beginning full-time ministry in Port Moresby.

The fun doesn't stop there though! Somewhere around August or September we plan to take part in the SIL PNG Orientation Course in Ukarumpa, which will involve several weeks of more focused Tok Pisin and cultural studies, culminating in a month-long village stay. We hope this will build well off our previous preparations. That will take us to somewhere around November of 2024, when we'll take part in the scheduled Reformed Missions conference. After this, we hope to take some weeks off to recharge in Australia. The Lord willing (again!), our house will be constructed on the RCBC compound by this point and we can begin in earnest the task we were called to in Port Moresby at the beginning of 2025.

As you can see, this will be a busy year coming up! Before the end of February there are other logistical details to work out, like completing our visas, determining what



we'll need and don't need, arranging for the shipping of our personal belongings, checking off the various health requirements, etc. As such, as I have written many times, it's the Lord willing, because this is indeed what we must depend on! "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." Many plans and schedules have been made, but we trust that the LORD has already ordained exactly how it will fall into place. And that is OK! Because he knows best. Please pray that all these transitions will go well for the family and especially Keziah, and that the LORD would bless our many preparations so that we will be well equipped for taking up our task in Port Moresby. Please also pray that His church may be built up and that He would receive all glory and honour.





# FOREIGN MISSION BOARDS MEETING

## WITH THE NATIONAL PASTORS AND THEIR WIVES

North-East PNG Mission

Frank Janssen

On Thursday the 5th of October 2023, a meeting was held that was the first of its kind. The three foreign Mission Boards, namely Southern River Mission Board (SRMB), Toronto Mission Board from Canada (TMB) and the Overseas Mission Board from NZ (OMB) joined with the Reformed Churches of PNG's five ordained Pastors and Candidate Pastor David Kalupa (currently doing an internship in Lae). When you speak to those who were at the meeting, it is without any doubt that they will all mention that this was a highlight of the visit.

Why are we reporting on this meeting? Well, we were asked and tasked to pass on greetings from the national pastors, but more importantly share the prayer requests that came out of the meeting. Hence this article.

It probably requires some explanation why this is a first and why this was so special. Mission PNG is different than that of Mission in Indonesia and the Philippines that are supported by the sister churches in Australia. In PNG we have foreign Missionaries and so the communication between the Boards and the field goes through the Missionaries (who are part of Reformed Ministries, (RM)). In the past, apart from the field visits there has been little direct communication with the National Pastors. However, over the past 4 years this

has started to change, and as the churches mature and start to institute, the distance between the boards and the Nationals started to close as we got to know each other more. The cultural differences, which take our Missionaries years to come to grips with, have to be considered as you try and have a meeting (with a clock) and how you have to interpret what is meant behind what is being said. Our RM team did an amazing job of preparing us, and even warning us and them of some of the issues that could arise due to miscommunication. Well, Praise be to God, it was an amazing meeting.

It should also be noted that whilst this meeting started at 8:30 AM in one of the classrooms in SIL, the foundation to assist the meeting was actually the night before. Whether this was planned or not for this purpose, is still unclear, but what was clear is that it really helped. With RM, the Boards and all the Nationals in the same room (see photo in Musings), we played 'minute to win it.' Wow! We all made a fool of ourselves, and with great mirth were able to put any last apprehensions aside as we laughed with (and at) each other, raced the clock, and did our best to make sure that the North Team (RM NE-PNG with the Nationals from there & SRMB) win, final score being 99-98 (although I believe the south got

Get together time



Worshipping in Hila



a heap of sympathy points). After a great games night, it was then bedtime, and hope for a great meeting the next day.

For myself, the blessing was that in 2022, during our visit, we got to meet all the National Pastors in all the churches, so there was at least one person from the Board that knew everyone, hence I was privileged in chairing this meeting. It was very evident at the start of the meeting that we were all a bit nervous, including the National Pastors. We add here that all the Pastors (except Pastor Paul Ame who is single) had their wives in the meeting, as were the wives of Board members. The meeting had a short agenda, but which would cover the whole day. The topics discussed were:

- The state of the federation of RCPNG
- Developments and outcomes from the meeting of the RM missionaries and the national pastors at the church planting conference held the previous 2 days
- The relationship between the RCPNG and RM; how they are working together and if there are any ways they could improve
- What the RCPNG wanted to share with the supporting churches in Australia, Canada and New Zealand
- What should the churches in Australia, Canada and New Zealand pray for PNG
- What can the RCPNG pray for the Foreign Churches.
- Financial management and budgeting.

Brother Ed Eikelboom (Delegate from SRMB) in his report to the Mission Board put the following together, so rather than reinvent the wheel, I used that as the basis for the following:

Some of the highlights of our discussions:

- The meeting went very well, with each pastor, and sometimes their wives, addressing the topics. Each one had things to say; they did not generally repeat what the previous one had said.
- A moving experience was when discussing the relationship between the RCPNG and RM, one of the pastors became quite emotional after expressing how much the missionaries meant to him, and wished he could work more with them. We all got a sense of the humbleness of the Pastors and the value our missionaries bring to the people of PNG.
- The pastors felt free to express to us all their thoughts, even those that challenged our thinking and that of

RM. There were some things that we took away from this meeting and could work with for the On field conference.

- A real delight was the singing. Encouraged by the NZ delegate, we sang two songs before each session standing, and boy was it loud. Tears flowed during one song, as for some we had a small glimpse of what it will mean to be many tribes and nations singing and praising God in Heaven. We did that in this meeting and it really enhanced the singing and it was a pure delight to sing together to the praise of our God and Father.

When we asked the Pastors, 'What does the RCPNG want the Boards to share with our supporting churches?', this is what they shared with us:

- The national pastors are very happy and encouraged by the work of the boards, so pass on thanks to the Co-Operating Churches. Thanks for all the prayers.
- Asked to remember the institution of the church in Beretete next month.
- Very grateful for the support for the churches and the schools.
- Tell the churches we continue to need missionary presence in PNG.
- Noted the blessing of Christian schools. The children are the future of the church. Currently there aren't proper trained teachers from teachers' college to allow the schools to be registered. There are many struggles with the schools, so someone is needed to help organise registration of the schools. It is important to see the schools registered.
- Thanks for continued support of the RCBC and the missionaries that come and are being replaced. There is still need for growth before the churches in the RCPNG can become sending churches themselves.
- RCPNG are thankful for prayer support. Sometimes they think they are all alone in their work, but it is good to know there are people around the world praying for them.

And then when we asked, 'what should the churches in Canada, New Zealand and Australia pray about for PNG?' They said:

- Prayer for the young men. There are so many things pulling the men away from the church. The bible college needs more Reformed men, not only from other church denominations but from the RCPNG churches. There are so many false doctrines in PNG, so they need young Reformed men to support the church. The six current pastors need backup!
- There is so much work to be done, pray for boldness that more may hear. Pray for unity in the RCPNG so that all is done for God's glory.

Board members (Aus, NZ & Canada) introducing themselves to Wantun



Singing





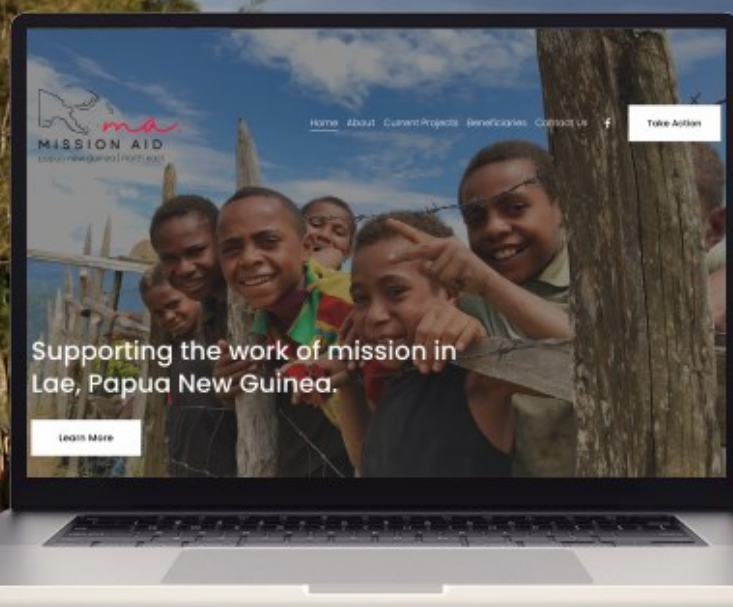
- Pray that there can be cheerful giving in PNG so that there can be enough to support the churches.
- Pray for PNG! As a country PNG has a lot of problems. Things are getting worse since independence - tribal fighting and killings. You need to risk your lives to do outreach in PNG. There is worry for the people coming after, people who don't know the Lord. The Reformed doctrine is very new in PNG, the other religions are so messed up.

It is indeed a pleasure to pass on the thoughts of the National Pastors and their wives to you, to the Co-Operating and Supporting Churches, to the members of the FRCA who support this work and see it as their Mission. We hope and pray that you take on their prayer requests, and then altogether we can pray for Gods Kingdom, whether in PNG, Australia, NZ, Canada or anywhere else in the world.

As a board member, this will always be the highlight of my time on the board. When you get to witness first hand the work on the Holy Spirit, seeing that from 20 or even 40 years previously, to what they have been Blessed with now, is just truly amazing and stunning. Whilst we know that the harvest is so ripe, and the harvesters so few, we do indeed pray that God will provide men to be leaders and pastors in the church and that he also gives us in Australia hearts of giving, so that we can continue to support the work of the Spirit in PNG. To Christ be all honour and Glory.



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# NEW WEBSITE

*Check out our new website*





# COLLEGE CORNER

Reformed Bible College, PNG

Mark Mulder

There's been a lot of plopping at the RCBC recently. With a bumper mango season, and quite a few mango trees on campus, the mangoes are dropping to the ground night and day. Occasionally the 'plop' is replaced by a sharp 'bang' meaning a mango has landed on a tin roof instead of the soft ground. That causes quite a fright, particularly early in the morning, close to our bedroom window, when everything is nice and quiet. We have so many mangoes, we've had to dig a big hole and throw away lots of them and cover them up with a bit of soil. Leaving them where they drop attracts lots of fruit bats and insects, and it's quite an eyesore seeing the campus covered with decomposing mangoes. Mangoes really are very tasty, and we do have quite a stock of peeled mangoes in our freezer, ready to be turned into mango smoothies. We also have fresh mango every morning with our breakfast. Yummy.

The campus is a quiet place right now, and quite honestly, I'm enjoying the change in pace. The last few months have been quite hectic and so the reduced pressure is very welcome.

Just last week we had our graduation ceremony, graduating 8 students; 7 from the certificate class and 1 from the diploma class. Graduation events are judged to

be successful if the food is good, and the pig meat is cooked just right. The actual graduation is significant for the students, but it's the food and social interactions after the actual graduation that the visitors enjoy. So how did we fare? Excellently!

The pig meat was cooked to perfection; it spent 2.5 hours covered with white hot rocks and on top of that was placed lots and lots of banana leaves to trap in the heat. We started the process at 2am, placed the pig meat

Preparing food for the graduation event





on the white hot rocks at 5am, and uncovered the meat at 7:30am. Meanwhile the ladies were busy preparing rice, bananas, tapioca, chicken stew, kango (spinach like vegetable), and sweet potato. Once the pig meat was cut up, it was combined with the other food and placed in a plastic container. These containers were stacked on a table and when it came time for lunch, guests just needed to grab a container, a bun, and a drink, and sit down under the shade, and story with one another. We thank our Father for blessing us with such a beautiful day. It is my hope and prayer that the graduates who are leaving the college put their recently learnt skills to good use in their churches. To the 2 students who will be returning, dv, to start the diploma class, I pray that they may have a good rest so that they come back refreshed and raring to

go.

The day after graduation is always a day of mixed emotions; joy, because the academic year is over and no stress in having to organise something, but also sadness as we say goodbye to students, some of whom we won't see again. This year was there was the added sadness of farewelling the Kleyn family. After 12 years in PNG it was time for them to go, only, they didn't want to go, and we didn't want them to go. Having forged deep relationships with many Nationals, it sure was difficult to watch the farewell, and I must admit it is something I prefer not to go through. You develop such a love for these people, and they for you, that separating is like tearing something apart. It is just painful.



The 2023 Graduates



Goodbye dear friends



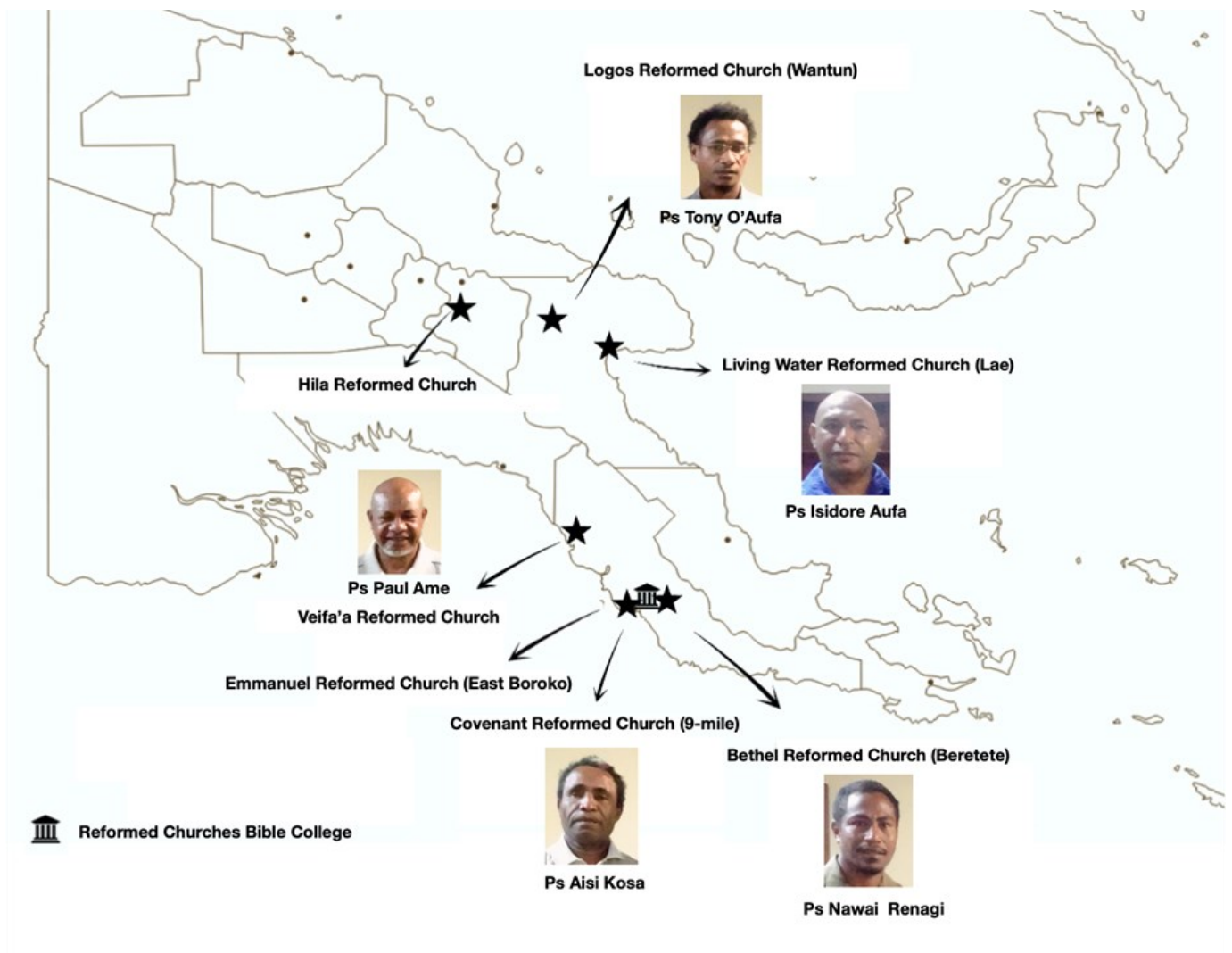
Ps Cor, Greta and the children were particularly loved by the Nationals and I understand why. Both Cor and Greta have such a servant heart and nothing was ever too much for them. As fellow workers we certainly appreciated Cor's optimism, and Greta's determination. Liz and I didn't know them that well when we arrived, but after 6 years of living together 24/7, we got to know them very well. In his grace, God allowed us to live together harmoniously and without any friction. I read once that the number one reason a mission worker leaves the field is because of a fellow mission worker. That was certainly not the case here. It's our prayer that they may 'land' well in the west, adjusting to a completely different way of living.

As we look ahead to 2024, we pray that the Toronto Mission Board may find a replacement for Cor, and that the Overseas Mission Board of the Reformed Churches of NZ, may find a replacement for Ps Hans, who plans to leave in June. Many changes which will also bring with them lots of challenges. Challenges should always be seen as opportunities to grow in faith, and we know that our LORD, who has a deep love for his church, will provide in his time, and in his way. In the meantime we continue to pray for the needs here in PNG, specifically the RCBC, and we ask that you do also.

In His amazing grace,  
Mark Mulder

# REFORMED CHURCHES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Location of the Reformed Churches of Papua New Guinea and the  
pastors who work amongst the people







## BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Mrs Erika Pol	01.12.1996
Keziah Slaa	04.12.2002
Zachary DeJonge	05.12.2018
Mrs Merinda van de Kamp	17.12.1991
Br. Ben van de Kamp	14.01.1992
Liam Pol	19.01.2023
Graeme van de Kamp	20.01.2020
James deJonge	14.02.2021

## KIDS PAGE ANSWERS

I love ice cream - **Saya suka es krim**

I am an elephant - **Saya seekor gajah**

I live in Indonesia - **Saya tinggal di Indonesia**

This is my friend - **Ini adalah teman saya**

# MISSION INDONESIA

Eric de Haan

Dear readers,

Picking up where we left off last time, we had just enjoyed a very entertaining if somewhat noisy Monday evening with fam Yan at the mission post at Lai Hobu, and we now needed to make the trek down to the coast at Padiratana. This is a very picturesque journey as you descend from the mountains into the coastal plain below, but in the past, due to the terrible condition of the road, there was normally no time to look up at the scenery. Thankfully the government had prioritised this road for a much-needed overhaul, and while it is not yet a sealed road, it has been widened and prepared with the result that a tortuous 3-hour descent now only takes a moderately difficult 2 hours to negotiate. We arrived at the church in Padiratana at around 11am where we found quite a few church, and consistory members waiting for us. This is where things got a bit weird. Normally after such a trip we are always offered coffee and expected to rest for at least an hour before anything in our plans would be realised. We were however informed that we would be heading immediately to the mission post at Kapehu which is approximately 10km back the way we had come, before turning towards the coast. We were introduced to a very fresh-faced evangelist Asto Tama Ama, 25 who had recently been appointed to work there. I say fresh faced, but maybe as I get older, anyone under

30 looks really young! We had a meeting at this post with the consistory of Padiratana and were provided with a delicious lunch. After our meeting we inspected the new church building under construction. We were pleased to find that the congregation had been extremely active and involved in the building of their new church building, with the result that the brickwork was almost completed. Not a bad effort considering they had received funding for this only a couple of months prior. By the time you read this, I would expect that services would already be held in the new building. There are currently around 20 members at this mission post. Afterwards we made our



Meeting the building team at Kapehu. Ev Melkianus from Watu Bara is on the left.



Evangelist Asto at Kapehu

way to the mission post at Watubara some 15 km away. This post has been established for 5 years and is in a small village of some 10 families. Evangelist Melkianus Tara Amah serves at this post. 21 members including children now worship at this post, and every Sunday afternoon Melkianus visits a village 10km further up the road to evangelize there. Some of the young people of this village are now joining in the catechism instruction given at WatuBara. He was soon to be replaced by REV Melkianus Tara Amah, as his ordination to the office of minister was scheduled for the next day, along with ev Yan Domu Marahongu, who had been appointed as a lecturer to the theological college in Waimarung. We spent the night at Watubara enjoying the company of the locals, and early next morning returned to Padiratana for the church service. We have discovered that whilst Sunday is indeed the designated day for worship, often

when there is a special occasion where many ministers are invited, it is quite common for a church service to be held mid-week. This enables ministers to be present in their own congregations on Sunday, and as most congregation members are subsistence farmers, they can attend without any problem. The church service was attended by 7 ministers from the local classis, along with around 300 church members from the local and surrounding area. As with many official functions in Sumba, invitations were extended to the local authorities who were represented by the district head of the army, police, and local government, including the Desa Kepala (Head of the village). As is custom, great pomp and reverence is shown to these figures of authority, and they are given the front row seats in the church building as a mark of highest honour. They also get to have first crack at the food, and judging by their heaped plates, they were confident that more food would be forthcoming! Maybe they saw it as a form of compensation for sitting through a nearly 3 hr church service! After the service concluded with the laying on of hands of 7 ministers, Brian spoke a few words of encouragement and congratulations to the two brothers, and extended greetings from the supporting churches in Australia. As it had been raining intermittently throughout the day, we decided it prudent not to attempt to visit Padiratana's other mission post at LaAu, some 4 hours away. Memories of hazardous river crossings were still a little too fresh in our minds. We decided to return to Waingapu via a different route than our usual one, and we're rewarded with some spectacular views as we climbed from the coastal plains into the mountains. A dense cloud band from around 400-600 meters above sea level kept us well and truly soaked and chilled to our bones.

On our return we passed by the GGRI churches at Tanarara where their last regional synod was held, and we also stopped by the church at Maumaru, which was one of the oldest in Sumba, having been established by a Dutch Missionary in the early 1950's. we were invited to inspect the church which was in a terrible condition, and as the congregation was one of the poorest in Sumba, they had no resources to maintain the building, let alone





With rev Markus & wife at Tanambanas

repair it. One sad outcome of this situation is that despite repeated calls for their own minister, they had been vacant for over 12 years! We agreed to bring a request for assistance to mission aid on their behalf to rebuild their church, and this has been thankfully granted.

A coffee and obligatory lunch, and then we were back on our way. Not long afterwards we came across what I can only call the best motorcycling road in the world. Yes, big claim I know! We had reached a section of newly finished road which stretched out into the distance, and for at least 15 kms wound its way around the various peaks of the barren hills and consisted of a constant stream of flowing corners and sharp hairpin bends, all on brand new super smooth bitumen. A biker's dream, being the big kids that we are, we were soon duelling each other moto style, sometimes riding less than a meter behind each other in

formation. I know it sounds somewhat risky but due to the constant cornering we probably didn't break 40 Kmh. Before we knew it, we were back in Waingapu and enjoyed the evening with rev Balla & wife Ellen who pampered us with a delicious meal and a stack of freshly washed and neatly folded clothes. Talk about roughing it in Sumba! We had a day free of any official engagements on the Thursday, so we decided to visit the mission post at Tanambanas some 2.5 hours west of Waingapu, where we met up with Rev Markus and his wife, and also rev Anton Priang from our former mission post at Honggaruru who was visiting family there. They had just had a tragic time as one of their church members had died the previous afternoon. This man became unwell shortly after a family celebration and it was decided to take him to hospital by car, however sadly he died before reaching hospital. To compound their grief, a young man

Laying on of hands at Padiratana





Hand digging of footings for Bali Church



Machine digging of footings in Bali

who was a relative, and who had helped him into the vehicle, also died suddenly that night without any warning or signs of illness. This was a big loss to the small community of around 40 members who no doubt would struggle to understand God's purpose in this. We offered our condolences and words of comfort and encouragement to rev Markus who had the difficult task of preparing for 2 funerals. We returned home by early evening and prepared for our meeting with the consistory of Kataka the following day. This was held in the church of Patawang, and although it was supposed to be a full meeting of consistory, only 6 members were present due to the funerals in Tanambanas, and another the same day in Kataka. We receive mainly positive reports from the evangelists present however, there have been some struggles at a couple of mission posts with clashes of personalities between evangelist and community members, and one instance of a newly appointed evangelist simply disappearing for 3 weeks without explanation. Thankfully we can rely on God to change the hearts of unbelievers and are not dependent on the personality or skill of the evangelist appointed.

Next morning it was up at 5 am to be at the airport for the daily flight to Bali which takes 1 hr 40 mins. We spent much of the Saturday at the site of the new church building, even getting our hands dirty by helping with digging the footings along with some church members, and the wife of rev Yan who was not afraid to indulge in a bit of "hard yakka".

Sunday morning was spent with the group in worship. We enjoyed a good time of fellowship afterwards with coffee and treats. The Bali group regularly has around 30 members now attending their worship services. There are 2 elders and a deacon and as many of the members are young adults who have moved from Sumba, there is a noticeable lack of youth in this church, and currently only 3 members are receiving Catechism instruction. Rev Yan hopes that in time this will change, as the current younger married couples begin to have families.

We returned home tired but satisfied with a good trip late on Sunday night.

As much of this happened some 4 months ago, there has been much progress particularly in the church building departments, but more about that next time. Till then, please keep this work in your prayers.



# REFORMED SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL & SUMBA UPDATE



Soli Deo Gloria Organisation and Children of Light

Guest Contribution

We give thanks and praise the Lord for his continued care over the work done in the hearts and lives of the students and staff at the Reformed Senior High School (RSHS) in Sumba! We also thank the sponsors for their continued essential financial support. Your financial gifts are especially needed as the LORD continues to bless the growth of the school – both in student numbers and building expansion/upgrades!

While the students enjoyed a 3 week break before school started on the 17th of July, work began on the new girls' dorms. The walls were built on top of the existing girls toilet block. The photos below show the process of construction and the almost complete exterior and interior.

Other financial projects/costs on the horizon at RSHS include:

- A **new classroom**, to facilitate the extra 5th class. The outdoor undercover 'mess' eating area is sometimes used as a classroom now.
- **Extension of the kitchen**, which was built to facilitate 70-80 students and 4 cooking fires, but now needs 7 cooking fires for 110 students! The extension will include a special purpose-built locked rice storage shed, to deter thieves.
- **Additional chairs**. The foldable chairs with tables, called "chitos" chairs here, are limited. We have enough for four classrooms, but need an additional 50 or so for two more classrooms, especially looking towards the next school year. For now, we are using square plastic chairs in one classroom, and students write on their lap

“The church community is very thankful for whatever [support] is possible and helpful, and we pray that it may bring glory and praise to the Lord, as we look to His providence in helping to raise these students to live in the fear of the Lord, and keep His commands” - Isabel Pakereng Postmus





The school also recently acquired a **new printer** and began printing and photocopying the new Psalm book.

### **An update from Sumba:**

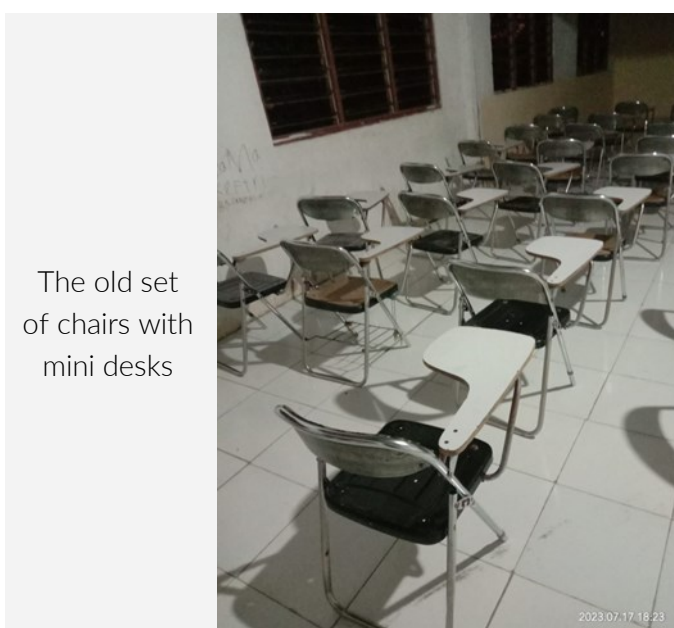
By the grace of God, the Children of Light (COL) Organisation in Australia continues to work with members of the Reformed Churches of Indonesia in Sumba. This is primarily through support of the Soli Deo Gloria Organisation (Yayasan) and the running of the Reformed Christian Senior High School (SHS) in Sumba. There have been various changes and challenges in 2023 that required us to adjust our expectations and refocus on basic needs for the students in Sumba, and to keep the Reformed SHS running.

Firstly, several months after COVID, the temporary government petrol subsidy was lifted in Indonesia. It subsidised about 30% of the cost of fuel for transport during COVID. Further, the NTT province (including Sumba) experienced large swarms of locusts (/ grasshoppers) that ate the produce in the fields. (Many people are subsistence farmers in Sumba). After this, the rise in fuel costs, plus limited harvest yield from locust plagues, resulted in a rise in the cost of rice, corn, oil, and almost all basic foods in Sumba. As an example, some months ago, we could buy a 50 kg sack of rice for \$50, but right now a 50 kg sack of rice generally costs at least \$70 (as I write this!). We use at least once sack per day in the boarding home!

The rise in cost of living resulted in a rise in minimum

standard basic wages, which affected our minimum basic teacher wages benchmark. Further, the coordinator of the village home student sponsorship support program had a second child, and was unable to continue going out to visit Middle School students in their home village churches. We have not been able to organise a replacement manager for this. Thus, the Soli Deo Organisation and COL have, for the time being, reduced our support for village home students in Middle School, due to the need to focus on basic school and boarding home student needs.

We were challenged in Sumba by the blessing of a steady increase in the number of students enrolled in the Reformed SHS, (Years 10, 11, 12). Previously, we generally had an annual new enrolment of around 30 students each year, in Year 10, before COVID. In 2020 and 2021, during COVID, fewer students completed Middle School, and our enrolment numbers went down to around 25 students. The current Year 12 class is only around 20+ students. In 2022, around 50 students enrolled in Year 10. This year, in 2023, about 45 students enrolled in Year 10. Thus, we are now running two streams of Year 10 and Year 11 classes, and one Year 12 class. This has increased our teacher employment hours/ time requirements!



The old set of chairs with mini desks



There are several different types of stools and chairs at the school, and all are in use for the Sunday worship service!

We are thankful to the Lord for a current Reformed School teaching program that caters for approximately 110 students in Years 10, 11 and 12. The students learn all essential subjects for the national curriculum, plus study Old and New Testament Bible Studies, Church History, Music (church/psalms), basic theological subjects, and have Catechism instruction lessons on Sundays. The Year 12 students are also involved in teaching a 'Sunday School program', where they sing and teach a Bible Story lesson to Pre-Primary and Primary School students who come to the Reformed SHS for church services on Sunday. This is held in the hour before the actual Church service, and these children still also attend the church service with their parents.

For the time being, to cope with greater student numbers at the school and boarding home, and the rise in daily cost of living for boarding home basics, we have done the following:

- organise students in groups to help with vegetable and tree gardens: Unfortunately, this effort has not been so successful in the past, due to lack of fencing of the land, and various animals coming to eat the produce that is growing nicely in the field.!
- limited support to village home students in Middle School, to focus on the Reformed SHS needs.
- reduced support (as a ratio per student) for the purchase of vegetables and other foods for the boarding home, to focus on being able to buy rice...
- request students to bring a kilogram or two of rice back with them to the boarding home, each time they go to-from their home village, to help with the rice costs.
- have not raised teacher wages according to the inflation index this year.

Currently, we are in the process of taking and sending out photos of sponsored students, along with basic information on each student. We are thankful for the continuing support of brothers and sisters in Australia, from the Free Reformed Churches in Australia, for the educational support of our young brothers and sisters in the Reformed Churches of Indonesia in Sumba. May the

New water tank bought in April-May for the girls' toilet block







The undercover eating area that was previously the old boy's dorm rooms. The boys have shifted into what was the girl's dorm rooms before.



Lord bless our work and efforts to raise these Senior High School students in the knowledge and fear of the Lord and His Word, the inspired Word of God, written through His Spirit – His Word, which is the only essential 'textbook' for our salvation by grace, through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.

With sincere greetings in our Lord and Saviour, On behalf of the Soli Deo Gloria Organisation and Children of Light, From Isabella Pakereng-Postmus (in Sumba).



COL Committee Members:  
Chairman: Shannon Reitsema  
Secretary: Savannah Plug  
Treasurer: Charlotte Bruning



# NEW HOPE UPDATE

New Hope

Femmy Dethan-Bouwman

*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!*  
*Ephesians 3:20,21*

Imagine having to get up at 4 am each morning, take a quick cold ‘dippy’ shower, have some rice porridge for breakfast and off you go for a 2 hour walk downhill to get to school in time for the roll call at 7! School is out at 1pm, the hottest hour of the day when these children make the trek back up the hill. We are not talking smooth, paved roads, obstacle course is a better description. Dirt road, deep pot holes, half a road missing because of a landslide and a couple of rivers to cross without bridges. During the dry season it is ok, but when the rain starts it is slip and slide, very dangerous and just impossible during the rainy season to cross the rivers.

Understanding the importance of education some parents look for a different solution, and have the children stay in a rented room near the school. The children set out early Monday morning and come home on Saturday afternoon to spend Sundays with the family.

Three years ago this need was brought to our attention

by the congregation members of the Reformed Churches

in Fatuleu. A request was made to please consider setting up a Junior High school. A combined effort resulted in the rental of unused community buildings and together with STAKRI graduates willing to fill the teaching positions Elpida Junior High opened its doors. First graduation was celebrated this year, during which another request was presented: “Would we please consider the start-up of Senior High School?” Parents are facing the impact of having their older children live on their own without parental supervision. At this age they are easily influenced by others as is the case with Mr. Amallo’s oldest son, full of emotion he related his story:

*I have lost my oldest son, I so wanted what was best for him. Rather than have him walk 4 hours a day and end up too tired to concentrate in school, my wife and I decided it would be better for him to rent a room near the school. We had agreed that every Saturday he would come home to spend time with us and attend*

*church. Monday mornings we see him off with a bag of rice and enough money to buy veggies or noodles. We had the impression all was well, until I ran into his math teacher who wondered why my son had not been showing up for school? Had he dropped out? I was so shocked! No time wasted, I took the trip down-hill and found out that our dear son had joined the work force. A local farmer had offered him a seasonal job, planting rice. Pockets well lined and enough food from home, the money was spent on cigarettes and alcohol. Every evening after work the buddies get together for a good time. I am so sad to have lost my son to alcohol and cigarettes. He doesn't realize that the payment he makes now will not be sufficient to provide for a family in the future. This is the exact reason I so badly wanted him to get a good education! I pray every day that the Lord will change his heart. I have 3 younger children at home and will do whatever it takes to not have this happen to them. Please consider our request to establish an Elpida Senior High School here.*

The Lord has answered the prayers of the people of Fatuleu and ours by allowing SMK Elpida Fatuleu to open its doors this year. While construction for the new classroom is well underway, the rented community buildings have to do, nothing fancy and a little cramped, yet the parents are overjoyed and understand that it is not about the building but about Christian education and care for the students. We hope and pray for sufficient funds to eventually build enough classrooms to accommodate all six grades; as well as funds for Christian dedicated teachers that are willing to stay there.



Please pray with us as well for:

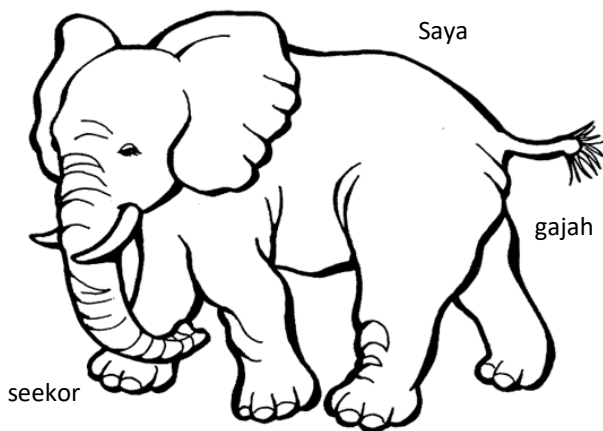
- New Hope house parents and councilors for continued strength, patience and wisdom to carry out the important role of being there for the New Hope children.
- New Hope children to use their time and talents well and grow close to our Heavenly Father.



# KIDS MISSION CORNER

Some of you learn Indonesian at school. It is hard to learn a different language, isn't it? It would be wonderful if one day you could travel to an Indonesian country and visit one of our Mission Churches and be able to speak to our brothers and sisters there in Indonesian. Wouldn't that be special for them and for you!

Can you put the words that are around the pictures in the correct order (translating what is written in English) and write them as a short sentence below the picture. If you really need some help, you can find the answers hidden somewhere else in the magazine! It may be fun to colour in the pictures as well.



English: I am an elephant.

Indonesian: \_\_\_\_\_



English: I love ice cream.

Indonesian: \_\_\_\_\_



English: This is my friend.

Indonesian: \_\_\_\_\_

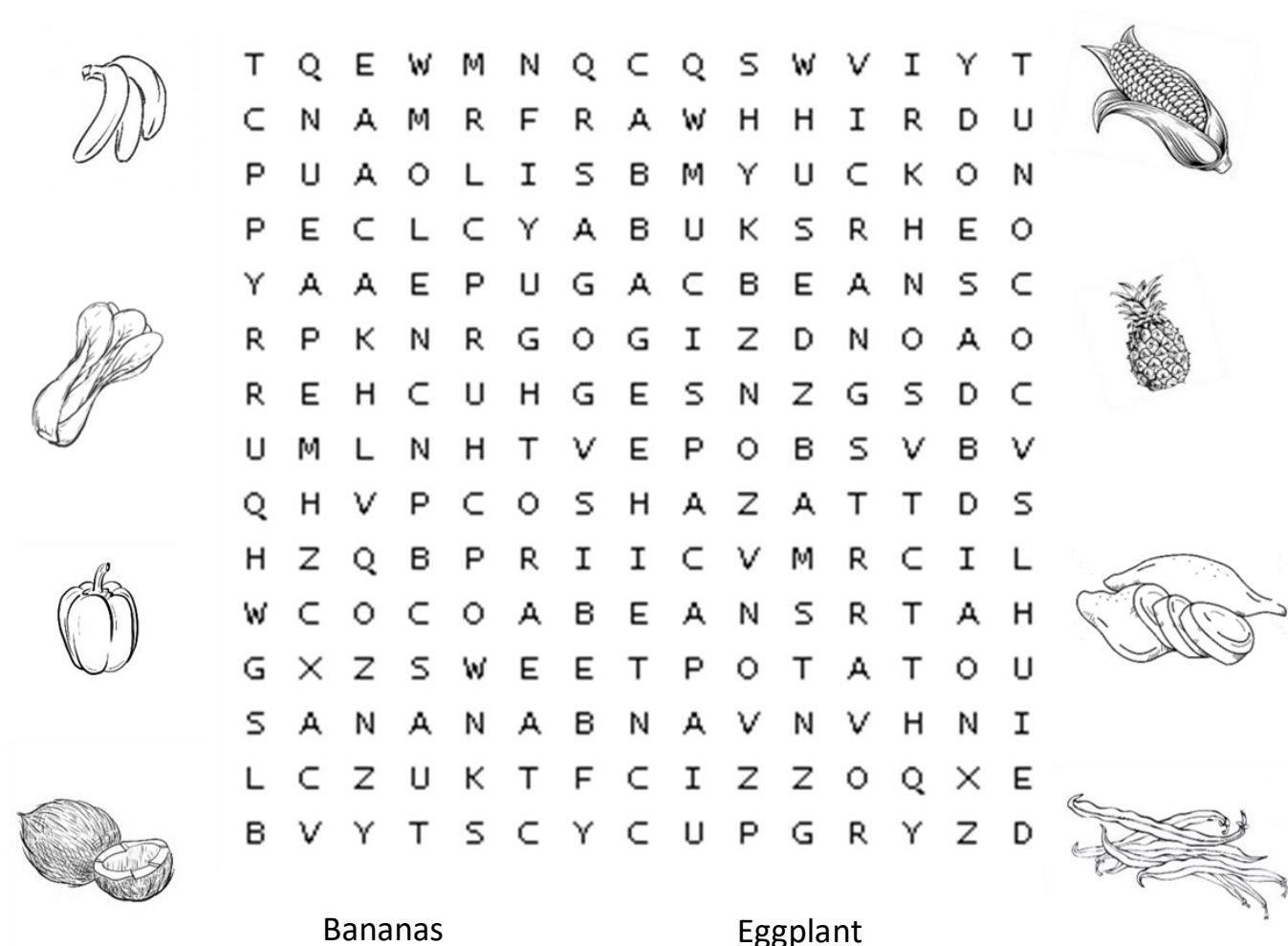


English: I live in Indonesia.

Indonesian: \_\_\_\_\_

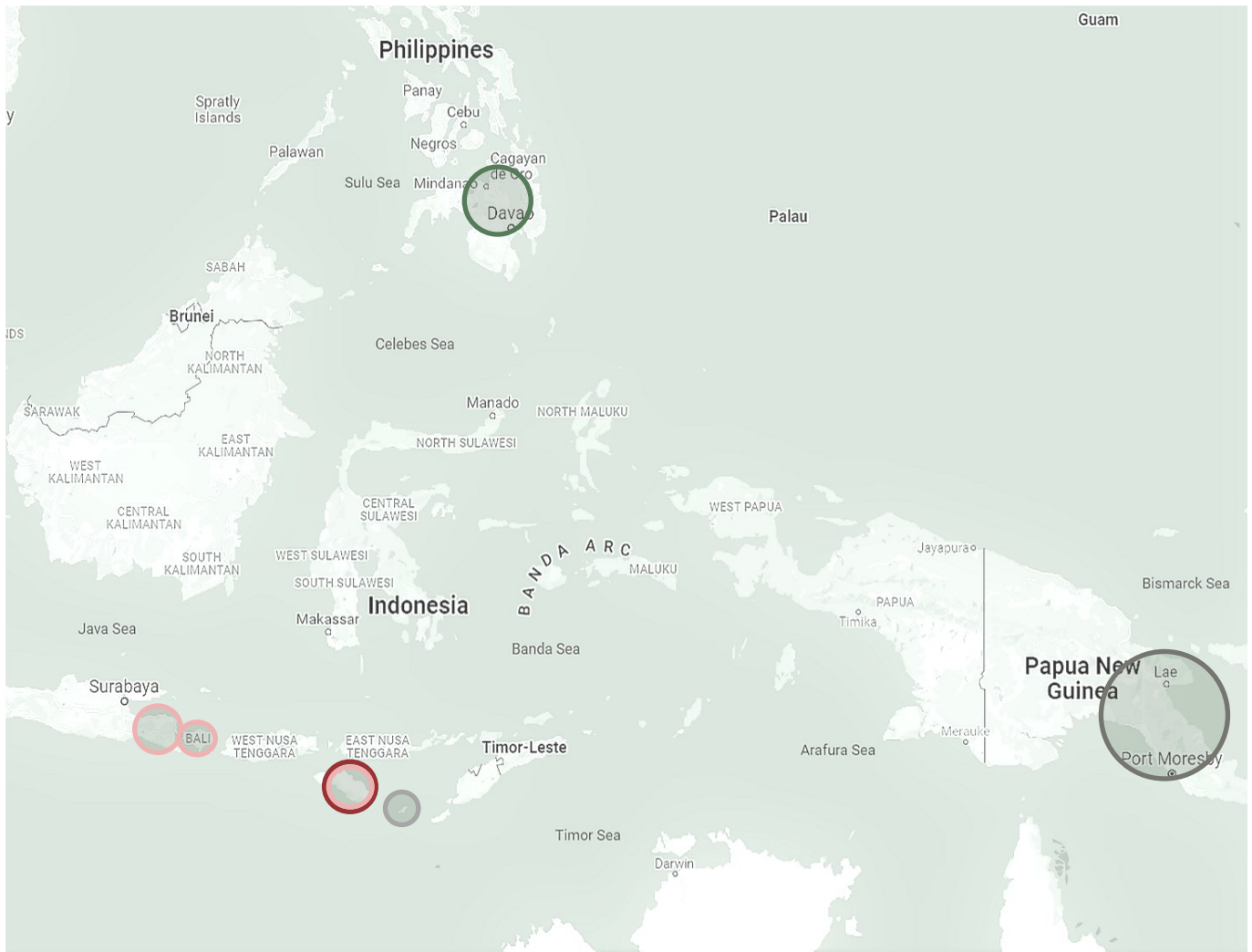


Did you know that many people grow their own vegetables in Indonesia, right outside their houses. And often they need to grow these vegetables so that they have enough food to eat. Sometimes they have extra vegetables which they can sell at the markets. Can you find all the different foods in the word search below?



# MISSION COMMITTEES

Indonesia • Papua New Guinea • Philippines • Sabu • Sumba



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Rev Balla Rihi - Maubukul

Br Pura - Lae Wunga

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Rev Balla Rihi - Kawangu

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Brother Thomas Dida

Brother Lay Djama Riwi

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