

# MISSION NEWS

## Mission Activities of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia

~ VOLUME 16

~ ISSUE 1

~ FEBRUARY 2021



*"For I am NOT ASHAMED of the Gospel for it is the POWER of GOD  
for SALVATION to everyone who BELIEVES."*

Romans 1: 16

COVER PHOTO:

By:

**CONTACT INFORMATION:****Rev R & Mrs R de Jonge**

PO Box 3009  
 Lae, Morobe Province  
 Papua New Guinea  
[ryandejonge@gmail.com](mailto:ryandejonge@gmail.com)  
[ruthdejonge@gmail.com](mailto:ruthdejonge@gmail.com)

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

**Rev C & Mrs G Kleijn**

PO Box 590  
 Waigani NCD  
 Papua New Guinea

**Mr D & Mrs C VanderWal**

Postal Address:  
 C/O Lae City Mission  
 PO Box 2599  
 LAE, MOROBE PROVINCE  
 Papua New Guinea

[duhfid.dvdw@gmail.com](mailto:duhfid.dvdw@gmail.com)  
[chereevdw@gmail.com](mailto:chereevdw@gmail.com)

**Guest Editorial****A PASSION  
FOR OVERSEAS MISSION**

It is four years to the month that my family and I left the mission field of PNG. The phrase that *'it feels just like yesterday'* is well worn and maybe overused in our conversations. Although much has transpired since our departure, the memories and lessons are fresh and the many people that touched our lives are indelibly written on our hearts.

So it is when you transition from a place you love and move back to your passport country. Yet, as difficult as it was to move away from PNG, the transition into a pastoral role here in Canada has opened up other opportunities that beg a new kind of excitement. It is the opportunity to inspire and foster a love and desire in others to serve in overseas missions. In fact, as a pastor, I realized that I have a necessary role to play in this, and it is one that must be taken with earnest. Yet, at the same time, this role of inspiring others, especially the next generation, to consider serving the Lord in foreign mission fields is a shared role between pastor and members.

You see, if we firmly believe that Christ has dominion from sea to sea; if we desire to fulfil the charge given to the church

to disciple the nations (Matthew 28:19); if we believe that mission exists because worship does not (i.e. Christ is not receiving the worship due His name); if we understand that there are still hundreds, possibly a few thousand 'least reached' people groups in the world that need to be touched by the gospel; and finally, if we believe we have the only answer to the world's greatest ill and need: the gospel of reconciliation, then as members of Christ's church we are all part of this on-going church building work in foreign lands.

I learned early on in our return to Canada that to be able to communicate this pressing need to my children and, equally, the church I serve, I needed to have my heart filled with love for the lost and my mind filled with Christ's vision for gospel expansion which pushes me outside the area that makes up lower east Hamilton, the neighbourhood in which we now live and minister. I had to ensure I did not become myopic in my vision even as we (as a church) continue to expend ourselves to make Christ known in our local community.

But the question remains: how do we instill this passion for overseas mission in others-- amongst our church members



and in particular, the next generation of missionaries and mission workers?

The primary means that the Holy Spirit uses to instill this passion in the hearts of His children is through the preaching of God's Word. Indeed, it is beholden upon us as pastors to preach in such a way the themes of mission stay alive in the hearts of the listeners. Of course, there are times when particular texts need to be preached that are explicit about foreign mission. However, if we understand that the redemptive story of Scripture is really God's glorious mission in this world to save us from the penalty of sin and draw us to the Author of life, then in some sense all of Scripture is a tour de force for world missions. And as families, we need to embrace this truth, and apply what we hear preached on Sunday and read in Scripture on Monday, as it were, into our daily lives.

Emboldened by the truth that our Triune God is passionate about the gospel of salvation being spread all over the world – we are called to bend the knee in prayer. Prayer is more-than essential in the spreading of the gospel. We all need to pray for our own – often waning – conviction in this and then pray for others, our children and youth in particular, that the fire may burn brightly for the call of the gospel in their lives. We need to pray for the missionaries we support and the work of mission in places all over the world. History has proven that God does answer these prayers. Excitement and passion for

overseas mission does grow in the hearts of God's children filled by the Holy Spirit.

Further to assist in building this passion, we should read biographies and share stories of past and present missionaries and mission workers who have given their lives to share the good news, and prepare to have these stories capture the hearts of our children. And then if our children and youth begin to

various members to serve overseas though – for most – not in a formal way.

For example, recently a family shared that they are planning to move to Costa Rica for a few years to establish a factory for a medical-equipment company that the husband works for. What they said next surprised me. They sense the Lord is calling them there to experience what it means to be displaced and depend more fully on Him. They



The Arenal Volcano at La Fortuna district in Costa Rica 90km Northwest of San Jose PHOTO: freepik.com

have their hearts stirred for service in this way, to fan that into flame. It is easy to suppress this passion for selfish reasons (wanting our children and grandchildren to remain close to us, for example).

In the current church that I pastor (Mercy Church), I have been blessed by the desires of

also want to walk with and assist a local United Reformed church in San Jose. Finally, they want to have their children experience what it means to serve the Lord in a foreign country, language and culture. I readily gave them my blessing although we will greatly miss this family in our church.

Two young men are devoting a few years, even a life-time should the Lord desire this of one of them, to serve at an orphanage in Mexico City.

A young couple have asked my advice about serving the Lord in Nepal.

Another young man finished a one year placement in Nicaragua

studying trauma and mission and is entering post-graduate studies and waiting on the Lord to see if he should return there. He has become fluent in Spanish.

In all of these situations, I have seen desires begin to form into both longings and opportunities, and I have learned there are a few things to keep in mind. The

first is the need to test our motives. For example, if a couple or individual does not desire to see their Canadian neighbours turn to Christ and have not taken any time to pray for and seize opportunities to reach them for Christ, their motives for going overseas may be misguided. Motives need to be checked. Going overseas for the sake of a 'new' experience is idolatry.

Secondly, it is important to be connected to a sound, Reformed or Presbyterian church. Parachurch organizations lack the spiritual authority to provide accountability that a church is called to give. So connecting to a true and faithful church in a local area is paramount

Having said that, if they are going into a difficult land where religious visas will not be granted they should not only be very intentional about preparing to connect with an underground church but also work under a mission organization that is able to prepare them for life in this locale. Naivety bears little fruit on the mission field where ever the Lord sends us.

Finally, I strongly recommend that those who are able - both male and female members - to seek further training in the gospel. If they are male members, I encourage them to consider an MDiv from the CRTS. However, if they do not feel called to become an ordained preacher, yet are interested in overseas mission; or, if female members want to serve in a supportive role and are able to do further study, a



Mexico City PHOTO: Wikipedia.org

bachelors or diploma in reformed theology is extremely helpful. In most mission fields one will be facing religious pluralism, doctrinal distortions because of years of false teaching, and worldviews that are drastically different than the Judeo-Christian worldview that most members have understood since their youth. Being well trained in reformed theology provides a needed foundation then.

Finally, it is good to remember that if we are faithful, professing members of Christ's church we hold the cherished and God-given offices of prophet, priest and king. These three-fold offices afford us the opportunity to serve in Christ's kingdom work both locally and abroad.

Although our family still misses PNG and feels the pull to visit, maybe even serve there again one day, we have embraced our new life here in Canada with joy. One of these joys is seeing the Spirit of God create a passion for the promotion of the awesome gospel of salvation in distant lands! And we long for the day that we will join an innumerable multitude of people from every tribe, language, people and nation surrounding the throne and worshipping our great Lord and King!

**In Christ,**

**Pastor Ian Wildeboer**

**There are a few things to keep in mind. First is the need to test our motives... Motives need to be checked. Secondly, be connected to a true and faithful church.**





## Armadale Mission Board

### CHAIRMAN'S MUSINGS

In Australia, the month of January is normally a quiet one, one where most church activities are taking a break along with many members. Well for the Mission work in PNG, no break was to be found ☐. It was with much thankfulness that the Free Reformed Church of Southern River could extend a call to Rev David Pol of Owen Sound in Canada and also to Pastor Ryan (as Southern River is taking over the sending work). I did mention that the Board didn't really have a break, why? Because in the month of January both men ACCEPTED their call to PNG. When I look at the last Chairman's Musing, I note that this wasn't even on the public radar at the time. So yes, we are very thankful that the calls could go out and that the calls could be accepted. What a blessing! When Rev Pol called me on that Tuesday morning, I was speechless (and those who know me, that's very strange). God had heard the pleas, and God has granted His people in PNG another Missionary to support the work being done there. To God be all honour and glory! And so the Board can get into action to go through all the processes required for Rev David Pol and his wife Erika and two children to land in PNG (via Southern River).  
With many

hurdles (not to mention Covid), we pray to God that He will have His guiding hand in this and bless it so that indeed the transition and process is smooth.

On the field, Ben and Merinda are currently holding the fort, so to speak. Following a short break (which is very important in a mission setting) after the RM conference, they have been able to get back into work. What a joy it was to see the photos of the celebration of Christmas with the congregation at Living Water Reformed Church in Lae. Planning and putting into action the plans for 2021 is well under way, and this includes assisting the school getting started. Ben and Merinda too have been blessed with baby news, and for various reasons will have to come back to Australia for the birth DV in April.

Off the field, our former Mission Support workers Julian, Shannel and Anna Slobe, were able to go to McKay (QLD) and complete their mission debrief. Whilst the plan was to do this in Canada, Covid restrictions, which caused many plans last year to be cancelled, prevented that. This is an important step in the work, to do Mission Prep and Mission debrief and we are thankful that where possible we can support the workers in attending these courses. May God be with them as they

continue their task in Bunbury now.

Further off the field, Pastor Ryan, Sister Ruth and family made it to Canada. Normally, this statement would not seem like such an accomplishment. However, this was anything but ordinary, and really, they probably could write a short book on the experience. There was a refused boarding in POM, followed by a 1 week stay at RCBC, there were visits to doctors, sickness and swollen legs, there were questions surrounding which route do we take now, which route has no roadblocks? There were concerns, there were moments of joy, there were late nights dealing with travel agents in USA, there were calls to the board etc etc. Yes what an experience this would have been. However, the blessing here, is that in all this human chaos God was there and that gave so much comfort and confidence. Of course, we didn't understand the situation why all the time, but it was a comfort to know that God was in control guiding and directing. Hindsight has shown hidden blessings that God gave the De Jonges by not allowing them to board that initial flight (these would also be included in the small book) So yes, we are thankful that they made it to Canada, and now (at the time of writing) await the birth of their child DV. Being in Canada, didn't stop Pastor Ryan

writing a beautiful article on the next step of the Pauline cycle, I hope you are all blessed by reading it.

At the time of writing, the Board is getting ready for one of its quarterly meetings. Due to the timing and function of working with Co-Operating churches, the February meeting already deals with Budgets and the proposals for the Supporting and Co-Operating Churches meeting held in early May. The Board is very thankful for the support and is happy to assist the field and churches in every way they can.



Prayer points:

- Pray with thankfulness that Rev Pol could accept the call to PNG, and pray for a good transition process.
- Pray for Ben and Merinda and family as they 'hold the fort' in PNG
- Pray that God will continue to give Pastor Ryan and Ruth a good break in Canada.
- Pray for Sister Ruth as the pregnancy nears its full term and that God may bless the birth.

**Frank Janssen**

**Chairman Armadale Mission Board**

## Christmas Liturgy Board in Lae



Pastor Ryan attending Logos (Wantun) School Graduation



## HOW TO PLANT A CHURCH—III

### MAKING CONTACT

As we continue our series on church planting according to the Pauline Cycle, it is good to remember that the sections of the Pauline Cycle are not “one and done” steps, like steps on a ladder that become unnecessary or superfluous once you pass them. Rather they are like building blocks on a tower that once laid remain vital to the integrity of those above them. What this means is that the Pauline Cycle is not only useful as a guide and metric for church plants, but also as a metric for all churches, whether it is 5, 50, or 500 years old. This is important to emphasize, because if there is any step on the cycle that a church might feel like it can move past and forget about, it is step 2, making contact.

In the ministry of the Apostle

Paul, this is one of the most obvious and deliberate steps. His most common approach was to go to a new place and preach in the synagogue. There was a clear reason for this. Paul went and preached to the Jews because they were the people of God, the ones to whom belong, “the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen” (Rom 9:4-5). In fact, at the time Paul began his ministry in Acts 13, it was not even clear what the extent of his ministry to the Gentiles would be. But as Paul’s ministry progressed, something of a pattern developed, the pattern we can see for example in Pisidian Antioch (Acts 14:13-52).

First, Paul preached to the Jews in the synagogue (14:14-15). On this occasion, he preached a very redemptive-historical message, touching on the patriarchs, the Exodus, conquering Canaan, the judges, and David, moving from David to Christ. Then he proclaimed the gospel of Jesus: his suffering, death, and resurrection, and forgiveness of sins for all who believe and recognize Christ’s superiority over the Law of Moses (14:17-41). On this occasion, many believed (14:43), but when Paul preached again on the next Sabbath, the Jews opposed them, which led Paul and Barnabas to declare, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we are turn to the Gentiles” (14:46b). As the Jews rejected the gospel, many Gentiles received it with joy and the word spread through the region (14:48-49).

So, Paul’s method for gospel contact was to go first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles, following the pattern of redemptive history itself. But there are some other details to notice in Paul’s travels. In Lystra, Paul performs a miracle, and this gives occasion for them to preach the gospel. On his second missionary journey, when Paul visits Philippi he goes not to the synagogue, but to a “place of prayer,” by the





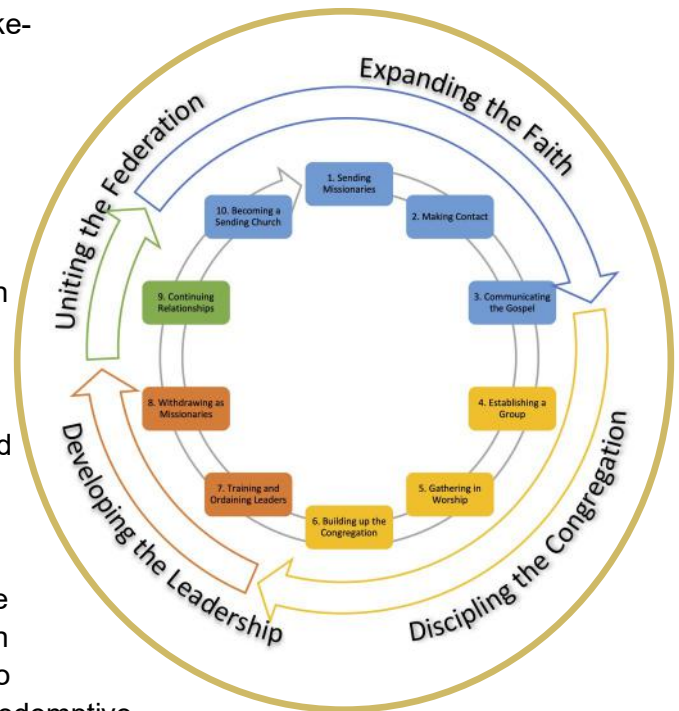
riverside, where he preaches, and Lydia, a God-fearer believes, and her household is baptized. Later in Philippi, imprisonment and an earthquake serve as the occasion for preaching. In Athens, at the same time that he spoke in the synagogue, Paul also reasoned with Epicurean and Stoic philosophers in the marketplace, which led to him preaching the gospel on Mars Hill. On a return visit to Ephesus, after being faced with opposition in the synagogue, Paul preached for two years in the hall of Tyrannus, a lecture hall of the Greek rhetorician Tyrannus. The conclusion we can draw from this brief survey is that while Paul almost always preached in the synagogue in a new town, he did not exclusively do this. He used other opportunities, in both public and private settings to preach the gospel. Sometimes these opportunities are the result of his prior work, as in Athens, others come unexpectedly through God's providence, as with the Philippian jailer.

One last aspect to note is that while it is not mentioned in Acts, it is possible that there were other reasons why Paul first preached in the synagogue everywhere he went, or at least, corollary benefits. One is the familiarity that Paul would have had with the Jews. Being of the same religious and cultural background would make communication easier. Having come the city of Tarsus and being trained in the school of Gamaliel, Paul may have had contacts throughout the cities Asia Minor, Macedonia, and Greece. Also, not only Paul but also his companions and other

early converts likely had relatives, friends, and acquaintances who worshipped in these synagogues. It would have been only natural to leverage these relationships as they went abroad preaching the gospel.

As we now come to the situation in PNG, we need to realize that the redemptive-historical moment that we are in is completely different from Paul's. There is no opportunity nor priority for preaching the gospel in synagogues to Jews. Yet, we can notice a similarity in that our work is also progressing along the lines of similar culture, language, and family connections.

So how do we make evangelistic contact in our mission and church planting work? In areas with an established church like in Lae, where Living Waters is now instituted, we do so in four ways. First, there is the regular preaching of the gospel each Sunday, where members are encouraged to invite their family, friends, and neighbours along, and where visitors also pop in each Sunday. In all the time that I have been in Lae, the only services I can think of that weren't attended by new visitors and guests were the one or two weeks immediately after the lockdown from coronavirus. Otherwise, there is



almost always at least one visitor, often more. Second, there are the regular Bible study programs of the church that members attend and visitors are encouraged to attend. Third, the members are encouraged to meet in their local areas for prayer and Bible study, to gather with their families for devotion times, and to use other opportunities to share the gospel in the course of their lives. In the context in which many members in Lae live, how they live their lives is also extremely important. Papua New Guineans don't have the same level of privacy and personal space as we Westerners, and so how your lifestyle promotes (or demotes) the gospel is critical. Fourth, Pastor Isidore and I, with support from other members, regularly preach the gospel in the markets around Lae, often distributing magazines at the same time. In both the preaching and the magazines, we go heavy on both the basics of the gospel—sin, salvation by

faith in Christ, new life in Christ—and the burdens and struggles many Papua New Guineans are facing: marriage struggles, addictions, poverty, corruption, etc.

Wantun is a rural congregation and a church plant, so the situation is bit different, and so while we still do the same four things, the emphasis is different. Sunday services are the priority and are vital to the work. As in Lae, there are often visitors who attend the worship services each Sunday. What is different than in Lae is that almost all these visitors are known to our members—they are their cousins, siblings, uncles, aunts, and neighbours. Some have been coming for months, even years, but are as yet avoiding the commitment of membership, some come for a few months and then leave for various reasons, others come once or twice, seemingly to “check things out”, while others are visiting from other areas and attend as long as they are in our vicinity. You might be interested to know that we have quite a powerful portable PA speaker in Wantun, and so regularly hear reports of people sitting in their homes in a nearby village listening to the preaching on Sunday. Since the membership in Wantun is quite spread out and also because there are

various cultural factors that make it difficult, we have been unable to achieve consistency with respect to Bible study and other regular, systematic teaching. This remains a work in progress. This is offset somewhat by the fact that there is a very strong sense of community throughout the entire Wantun valley, which means there are ample opportunities for informal contact and sharing of the gospel. Going to Wantun sometimes feels like attending a friend’s family reunion. Everybody else knows each other and has the same background and traditions, and you are only odd one out. As in Lae, this means that the lifestyle and personal conduct of our members is constantly under scrutiny from those around them. Finally, there are opportunities for preaching in the broader community as well. Pastor Tony has been invited to a number of community gatherings where he has shared the gospel, and both of us have preached at outreach events in nearby villages several times. These invitations have all come through members in the church who either live in these areas themselves or have family members that do. We also preach several times a year at the nearest major centre, about a 1.5 hrs walk from the church ground, and sell magazines there as well.

In terms of our broader outreach work, our strategy in the past five or so years has been to go on preaching tours twice each year,

preaching at as many major centres as we can, while also spending a day or two in villages with which we have closer ties because of familial and cultural connections of members in our churches.

When we preach at the major centres, we try to hit the biggest markets in the biggest towns with the biggest speakers that we have. We often preach to several hundred people, with sometimes upwards of a thousand people listening. The content is the same as in Lae and Wantun-- heavy on the gospel and relevant issues (and more about that next time)—and we preach for 1 – 1.5 hrs, with the crowd continuing to build the entire time. Afterwards, we sell magazines on the theme of our preaching, leaving behind not only gospel-centred articles, but also the contact information of the pastors of our churches. We deliberately don’t include the contact information of missionaries, because there is the presence of what many describe as a “cargo cult mentality,” in PNG, in which people will look to a white missionary as a potential source of money and other material blessings. In some ways, this mentality adds to the popularity of our preaching, but we try to leverage this by preaching the true gospel to those who might be listening with misguided intentions. After five years of preaching in these centres, we are becoming quite well-known. These events have led to some significant contacts with our pastors, some of which continue today, but many which tailed off



after a few months or years because we, limited by manpower and distance, were unable to follow-up on their requests to return. Ultimately, what we are looking forward to from these events is what David Hesselgrave calls a “prepared people” a group of people who, by God’s providence, are ready to receive the Word and hungry for more, so that we grow a relationship with them and pursue ways and means of communicating the gospel, the next step in the cycle.

The other aspect of the tours is the day or two that we spend in a village. Thus far we have regularly visited two villages: Hila, which is the home village of Pastor Aisi, the pastor of Nine Mile church in Port Moresby, and Koge, which is the home village of Joel Sine and Paul Kamina, elder and deacon in Lae, and others members in Lae. During these visits we preach and teach as much as we can, usually twice a day, and speak with interested people when we are not preaching. In both places, in addition to selling and giving away magazines, we have also provided copies of the confessions, sermon books, and other helpful short books, as well as audio recordings of sermons to listen to and share around. With the group in Hila, we also have regular contact by phone, which has been very beneficial. This group is at the point where they would like to begin worship services and even call a pastor as soon as possible. In Koge, there is no group to speak of, only a number of interested persons from different clans, the result of which is that they are moving slower on the church planting path.

The Lord has richly blessed our work in PNG and we are thankful for the continually growing and deepening group of contacts that we have. As we work, we are entirely dependent upon God for everything. We have no idea which contacts will be fruitful and which will not.

While the book of Acts gives us principles and examples, it does not give us a textbook on how exactly to do the work of making contact so that it will be successful. That’s not the point. What Acts does teach in this regard is that God is the one directing the work, and we work according to how He alone leads, guides, and blesses. Some contacts, like the initial contact that led to the church plant in Wantun, seem to fall out of the sky unlooked for, bear much fruit, while others, which seem to be bulletproof and full of potential, disintegrate into nothing before your eyes.

I hope this survey of our work of making contact has been helpful for you. I also hope it will spur some reflection on



your own church and context. How is your church doing in this area? Have you largely forgotten this work, having “moved on” to other aspects of building up the church? Or do you not consider this to be an important part of local evangelism? The history of the church teaches us that the way the church usually expands and grows is often not through conferences and campaigns, but through regular Christians, going about their life, “making contact” with their coworkers, friends, and neighbours, and inviting them to hear and learn more about the gospel, which is the next step in the Pauline Cycle, communicating the gospel.

**Pastor Ryan DeJonge**

R.C.B.C.

## COLLEGE CORNER



## 2020 College Year...

PNG has just two seasons wet and dry. Right now we are experiencing the wet season and in the years that I've been here I've never experienced the wet season as it has been this year. The amount of rain that we have received has been unreal and certainly all of our water tanks are full to overflowing. For this we are very thankful. Lots of rain does mean that lots of water gushes off the sides of hills and mountains taking with it huge quantities of mud. This mud inevitably ends up on the road and because the PNG government doesn't have much equipment to clear the roads the mud just sits there and the roads become very damaged. Drains are blocked and there is rubbish just everywhere. Navigating your way around potholes and mudbanks and the rubbish is certainly quite a challenge as you drive into Port Moresby.

There has been quite a lot of infrastructure changes at the Bible College over the last number of years so as to

accommodate increased numbers of students. One very large project that we have been busy with since September has been the construction of a new library / administration centre. This has been a very big project and over the Christmas break a lot of energy has been spent in completing this project so that it will be ready for the new academic year. It is certainly looking good and the increased library size will enable us to house lots of books and have plenty of room for students to do their study. The administration centre is also nice and roomy and it's our hope that in time we may be able to employ some nationals to take care of administrative items. This is all part of the broad plan to handover the running of the college to the nationals. We do know that this will take years before it eventuates but it's good to have the infrastructure in place and it's good to have this as a goal.

Another project that we have been busy with is renovating the guest house underneath Kiwi house. Kiwi house is where the New Zealand missionaries live and underneath that house

was a guest house, which really wasn't big enough to be suitable for a couple, and a workshop. With the Bible College depending on many guest lecturers, it was decided to amalgamate the guest house and the workshop. This project is nearly finished and it is looking really good. We certainly hope that it will be attractive for our guest lecturers.

The guest house renovation has become more critical because we have received the wonderful news that New Zealand has found a minister who is prepared to work at the Bible College for at least three years. Rev. Hans Vaatstra has come to the Bible College before as a guest lecturer and he has indicated that he is prepared to work here for at least three years. He will be coming with his wife, Lisa, and youngest son, Leo, DV. We are very excited and thankful for this development. It is an answer to prayer that's for sure. Rev. Vaatstra has been here before and the students do enjoy working with him and he has some understanding of the struggles that the churches face. We hope and pray that the Lord will bless the work permit

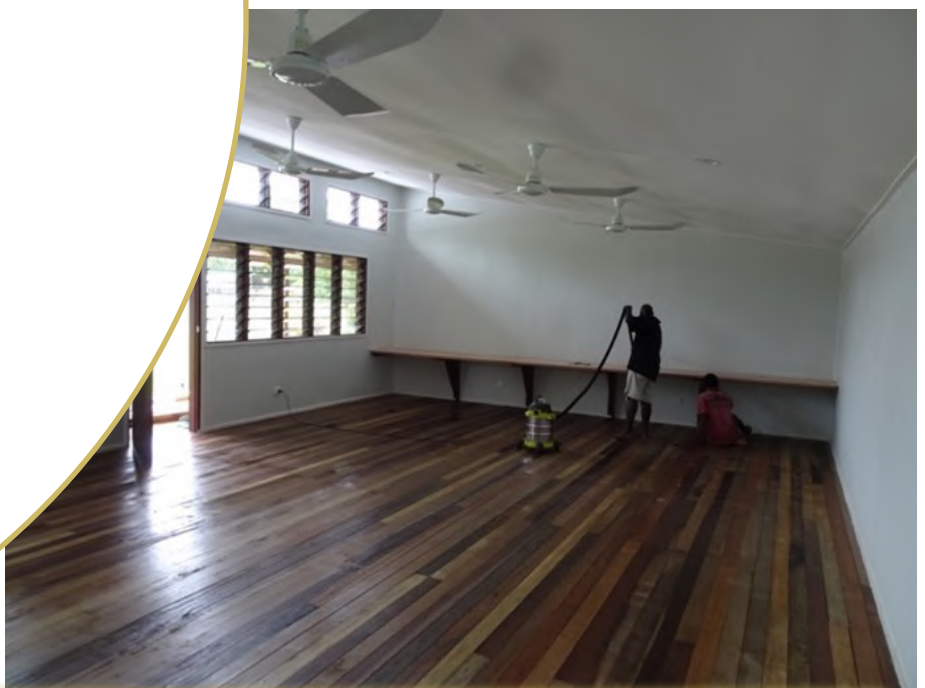


## Library / Admin centre nearing completion.

application and also the visa application.

At the time of writing we don't really know how many new students we will be receiving this year. This is pretty typical and we won't actually know till probably one or two days before the college year actually starts. I've learnt not to stress about it and just wait and see what happens. In the meantime we pray that the Lord will bless our efforts to attract new students to the college. We do know that we are receiving two students from Lae City Mission who applied for a scholarship and after having been interviewed by Rev. Ryan DeJonge were chosen as the successful candidates.

**In Christ alone,  
Mark Mulder.**



Students giving the final touches in the library.

R.C.B.C.

## FROM THE HART



January 2021 - By Richard 't Hart

## Serving his Heavenly Father as Campus Manager at the Reformed Churches Bible College Port Moresby – Papua New Guinea.

### **Greetings Everyone!**

The year 2021 has begun and so much has happened later in 2020 so it would be good to update you on some of the big things that have happened at the bible college.

### **Graduation 2020**

Once the academic year was finished in late November, we held our graduation ceremony. Please pray for these graduates as they leave the College.

**Apa Moses** is 26 years old. Graduated from the Certificate programme. (2 years) Married to Elish with 1 and ½ children :- ) Yes, his wife is expecting. Apa came to the bible college after being convicted during an outreach preaching tour of the Highlands conducted by our Lae based Reformed Ministries Colleagues. Apa has been a joy to have around the campus and is just a really helpful person. He has run the Campus Canteen/ Store for the Last 2 years. I have been teaching him to drive.

Elish is also studying and at this stage is hoping to complete her certificate this year.

**Ao Niu** is married to Emily and has also 1 and ½ children. :- ) Ao came to study at the College after working on the Campus Manager's House and Bunk Haus. Ao has been the leading hand on these projects and I am thankful that God brought him to help with the work and to build his desire to serve.

**Don Nason** is single but working on it :- ) Graduated from the Certificate programme. He was the 1st student on the scholarship programme from the Lae City Mission.

**Janter Sarumi** is married (to Anna) with 1 and ½ children Yes, we have 3 wives who are expecting :- ) Janter also came to the College after being part of the building team. He came as a single man 3 years ago to work on my house. He had grown up in the church but had been pursuing a path of rebellion and was not committed to serving God. He came to the College to work and started to change. He also met Anna at the College while she was studying and he was working... God has blessed Janter and he has really blossomed as a dad.

Janter is naturally skilled in using tools and a very quick learner. It has been a real privilege to watch him grow and develop. He and Anna hope to profess their faith this year.

**Onno Roua**, graduated from the Diploma Programme (3years), after the 2years Certificate). Onno is married to Molly and is approximately 60 years old. He hopes to be a pastor in a local congregation that is not currently part of the Reformed Churches of PNG. Please pray that God may use what he has been taught to give Glory and Honour to him and that many people may hear the true gospel and not a legalism or a prosperity gospel as many churches in PNG have tended towards.

### **Reformed Ministries conference at Kokopo**

Every year we the Reformed Ministries team in PNG get together for a conference to discuss our work and plan for the years ahead. This year we were unable to holiday outside of PNG so we took the opportunity to hold our conference in PNG as well. We all (Lae and Port Moresby workers) met in Kokopo which is in East New Britain, one of the islands which belong to Papua New Guinea. It was a real blessing to share time together with our colleagues.





## College Projects

The work on the Library and Admin Centre proceeded very well. The team of students worked very well considering the hot conditions.

D.V. we hope to complete the project prior to the start of the 2021 academic year.

## Prayer and Praise points...

- Please give thanks for the year that has been in these Covid times. We were able to complete each study block and 5 students could graduate.
- Please pray for Ao, Apa, Janter, Don and Onno as they leave the College. Please pray for Onno and his wife Molly) as they take up their task in ministry. Please pray for other graduates as they transition to life away from the bible college and that they may remain faithful and actively seek to join and become a living member of a local church.
- Please give thanks for a great Reformed Ministries Conference. For Unity within the RM Team.
- Please give thanks for outreach opportunities and the fledgeling new church plant

occurring in the highlands. Please pray for the members of the RM Team who are planning to move to the highlands to facilitate this work.

- Please pray for the local reformed church groups. The churches have a great shortage of faithful men and church leaders.
- Please pray for the country that many, many people may come to know the freedom that only God can give in Christ. So many in this country are held captive by their fears of witchcraft, sorcery, evil spirits. May millions come to know that God is Sovereign, and he alone can give peace.
- Please give thanks for the faithfulness of our local pastors and for continued strength to do a very difficult job.

## In His Service

**Richard 't Hart**  
**Campus Manager**  
**Reformed Church Bible**  
**College, PNG**  
[rmthart@gmail.com](mailto:rmthart@gmail.com)



## North East, PNG

### MISSION AID

Welcome to a new update from Mission Aid North East PNG. We have been busy supporting various causes in Papua New Guinea, particularly focusing on supporting the schools in Lae and Wantun. Below you will find an introduction to the newest cause that we are supporting.

For many years the Living Waters Christian School in Lae has been trying to find registered teachers who are also actively involved in the church. Registered teachers are important for receiving government registration. However, the school has struggled to find people that are trained or people able to complete the training.

Due to the poor quality of education in PNG, many students do not pass their high school exams and drop out of school early. This means they don't have the grades needed to enter tertiary study. There is the option for students to complete their matriculation studies (equivalent to high school), and then to enter a tertiary institution. This is an expensive avenue, and many people do not have the funds to support such studies. Even if a student has passed their high school exams and can enter college, they still often do not have the financial means to study.

The Living Waters Christian School board, with the financial support of Mission Aid North East PNG, is hoping to offer scholarships to students who wish to complete their matriculation and/or their studies to become a registered teacher. The sponsorship will be

offered to anyone who is actively involved in the Reformed Churches of PNG and will cover the course fees, to help make this a more affordable option. The students who are sponsored will then commit to working at the Living Water Christian School for as many years as they were sponsored by the school.

The role of Mission Aid, therefore, is to provide the funds for these sponsorships to the school board. We are hoping to have K10,000 available every year, which works out to just over \$4000 AUD. We would love it if you are able to help support us in this project so that those who wish to study to become a teacher are able to, and through this, the school in Lae is blessed with reformed, registered teachers.

In order to support us please visit our website to give to this cause: <http://missionaid.frcarmadale.com/>

Alternatively, you can transfer directly to our account. Please include the reference/description below to ensure that your donation is allocated to the correct fund.

BSB: 066 131  
Acc: 00902095  
Reference/Description: TT Sponsor

**On behalf of Mission Aid  
North East PNG,  
Brooklyn Vanderlaan**



Living Water Christian School in 2019



# West Timor

## NEW HOPE (HARAPAN BARU)



Students happily learning in one of the new classrooms

*“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles”.*

*Isaiah 40:31*



### New Hope Home January Update

**And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”**

**Philippians 4:19**

the next couple of weeks so that the crops will grow and a harvest can be had later in the year.



Teaching at the LWCS

Greetings to you from a very wet and beautifully green West - Timor!

The children at the New Hope Home also make good use of all this water coming down, corn and sweet potatoes have been planted. Perhaps the change in the weather, less sunlight caused a rise in positive Covid cases also. Currently the hospitals are overwhelmed, in an effort to reduce the spread, the government has imposed another stage to lockdown.

We rejoice with the farmers who have desperately been waiting for the downpours to arrive. The rains are very late this year and thus crops that should have been growing already are just being planted in many areas. We hope and pray that it will continue to rain for

Businesses, markets and shops have reduced operating hours



Teacher Graduation  
From left: Jennifer, Joanna, Grace



and children continue to study from home. Whereas typically the Christmas holidays are a highly

Gathering at New Hope Dormitory



anticipated two week break from school and regular schedule, this year the children would have jumped at the opportunity to go back to school! Some of the children went back home for the holidays, whereas the majority stayed at New Hope busying themselves with the preparation for the Dalam Tuak Christmas program. We are so thankful that we were able to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour together as a congregation. We reflect on a wonderful evening marveling at God's grace by sending His Son. Once again the young people surprised us with their multiple talents of singing, playing musical instruments and to top it off another hilarious skit taking us behind the scenes of the STAKRI (Reformed Theological) College.

The councilors took the holidays as an opportunity to take a well deserved break from a full on schedule this past year. A special prayer request for Miss.Efi (New Hope councilor) who anticipated getting engaged and married to her boyfriend of three years. Efi comes from Toraja and has graduated from STAKRI College with a Religious Teaching degree. In Toraja marriage should be with the blessing of both pairs of parents. If this is violated, the married couple will be alienated and no longer recognized as members of the family. The prospective bridegroom will have to send a trusted person to bring 'betel' to the woman's house as a first step to find out if there is a way to proceed to the next level or not. In the case of Efi and her boyfriend

Jonathan, the trusted person is his older brother. Sadly, the brother misunderstood the Toraja adat (costum) and took the bringing of the betel nut very lightly, as a result the family has rejected this request and the couple cannot proceed with the wedding. Efi is very sad and stressed out about the whole situation and feels powerless to do anything. Although my initial reaction was one of disbelief that a wedding can be cancelled just like that, learning more about the Toraja culture however I came to understand and appreciate the fact that marriage in Toraja is highly regarded. The requirements are not impossible to meet, unlike other traditions such as in Rote, Sumba and Timor where it is not uncommon for huge dowries to be requested in forms of buffalo, gold and/or money, the Toraja people do not request any monetary gift, but they do require an attitude of humbleness. The prospective husband's family has to show that they are willing to love and be responsible for the daughter whose hand is being asked. Nevertheless, this is a very hard time for Efi especially, please keep her in your prayers that she may find peace and trust in God to fulfill His perfect plan for her.

With the beginning of the New Year all are back into the regular run of things, Covid style that is :) Studies have resumed and with that comes the working towards the national exams of grades 6, 9 and 12. At this moment we don't really know how this will all work out, last



Mis Efi participate in women society choir

year exams were cut short because of Covid, this year it is not looking any better so far. Nevertheless, the teachers at Elpida remain optimistic and do what they can to prepare the students using the limited amount of time they have. This past Wednesday we had a small celebration together with previous New Hope graduates from the Barate area. Most of them graduated last year but because of the Corona outbreak had not been able to come back and receive their High School Certificate. As a sign of appreciation, the children and their families/guardians prepared a delicious meal for all New Hope staff and residents to be enjoyed. We were presented with a real live rooster as well as a hand-woven traditional scarf.

During the meal the graduates shared about their time at New Hope, Jerry said:

***“I came to New Hope because I grew up without a father which has been very tough for me, my siblings and especially my mother. A friend told me about the New Hope Home and suggested for me to apply. To be honest, I thought I was going to have the time of my life being on my own, this expectation was short lived for it came clear from day one that life at the Home is very structured and disciplined, something I was not used to. Schedules for just about everything, cooking, cleaning, homework you name it, I really did not like it. New to me also was to be so involved in church activities, Bible reading and shared devotions after meal times and the stress on the importance of personal***



***devotions. I grew up in a Christian family, but other than going to church for Easter and Christmas this did not mean a lot to me. I am so thankful for the time at New Hope where I came to know my Heavenly Father, although I did not like it at first, now I understand the importance of using our time wisely. Because I was able to finish High School with good grades, I received a scholarship at the university to study Electronics.***

***Therefore, I want to encourage you all to follow the rules and discipline yourself to use the talents and opportunity that God gives to you all.”***

This about sums up the latest happenings at New Hope, with that I like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your continuous support through prayers and financial gifts that allow this ministry to continue.

Blessings,  
**Femmy Dethan-Bouwman**

Jerry's Mom present a hand-woven traditional scarf as a sign of thankfulness





## Rockingham/Baldivis Mission

### INDONESIAN MISSION COMMITTEE

Serving the consistories and congregations of the Free Reformed Church of Rockingham and Baldivis  
PO Box 531 Rockingham, Western Australia 6168

Dear readers:

Another year has crept upon us, and suddenly we find ourselves back at work, and in the regular routine of meetings, and other activities in the LORD's kingdom. It seems so long ago now that we had freedom of movement and association with our brothers and sisters in Indonesia, but looking back it is not even a year since our last visit there (report of this visit in next issue). Since then, as can be appreciated, we have been restricted to correspondence only in our work of support for the mission posts we are privileged to support. There

are still some mission posts where we are barely getting any information from, and extra effort has been directed to the responsible churches to get regular up to date reports. There has been a flurry of activity in some of the other mission posts which has kept the committee busy, and in regular communication with the sending churches. The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the mission posts in Bali and Java hard, and made it impossible for them to receive visits and delegations from their own consistories. Here is a brief rundown of what has been happening in the various mission posts.

and which has now almost completely evaporated. Since they no longer had a source of income, many have returned to their ancestral villages where they can eke out a living by working the family plot of land. We don't know at this stage what the long-term implications are for this post, and the consistory of GGRI Kataka are reviewing the matter currently. We pray that the situation with COVID-19 in Indonesia can be brought under control, so that the work may continue, and the members can find gainful employment to support their families and the Church there.

#### Malang & Dampit – Java

The work in Malang has suffered recently due to a serious heart condition experienced by our evangelist Rev Yanto Muriwali. He recently had to undergo open heart surgery, and is still convalescing now. Due to travel restrictions within Indonesia, no help from the churches in Sumba was available. A planned trip by Rev Balla had to be cancelled or postponed at best. Please pray for the continuing recovery of Rev Yanto and for his congregation in Malang.

The work in Dampit has also suffered a blow, as the evangelist appointed to this post, and scheduled to begin in Jan 2021, has requested to be relieved from his appointment



#### Bali

The congregation in Bali has been affected more than any other because of the Corona Virus, due to many members returning home to Sumba. Their number is now probably a quarter of what it was at this time last year. Many of the members previously worked in the hospitality industry which relied heavily on international and domestic tourism,

Rev Balla with delegates on a recent mission trip



for family reasons. He has since received a call to serve the vacant church in Sumba at Maumaru. While this is a disappointment for us, it is an answer to prayers for the church as Maumaru, having been vacant for a considerable period of time. Consistory Kataka have since advised us that they have a prospective replacement for Dampit, but it is yet to be seen how soon he will be able to take up his task. This candidate is currently in his 4<sup>th</sup> year of theological study in Waimarung Sumba. Our task of oversight as mission committee is also made more difficult, as we would normally have a meeting with the consistory of Kataka, together with the prospective evangelist, to ensure that he meets the criteria set in our mandate, and for us to accurately assess his financial requirements for serving the mission post. Our prayer is that God opens the way for this evangelist to begin his work in Dampit as soon as possible.

### LaiHobu – Sumba

Evangelist Yan Lakki Ngella has expressed an interest in furthering his studies at the theological college in Sumba (now relocated from the capital Waingapu to Waimarung near Mololo). While

### Ready for church at Maubokul



this will be a blow for the mission post he has served faithfully for many years, his desire to become a fully-fledged minister of the Word, will no doubt be of great benefit to the churches in Sumba. He will be an asset as a mature aged student, as he has had much experience in the mission post. His expertise will be a great benefit to the college, in training other young men in preparation for their task. This is especially important in Indonesia, as most theological students will end up serving a mission post, either in their final year of study, or immediately upon their graduation. Recently a young man named Simri publicly professed his faith in the Mission Post at Lai-Hobu.

### Maubokul

With thanks to God, we recently received an invitation to attend a festive worship service, and witness the baptism & public profession of faith of 15 Adult members, and 12 Children of this mission post. 5 couples who made profession of their faith, also had their marriages solemnized in a Christian ceremony, having previously undergone a traditional Marapu wedding. Whilst we were unable to attend because of travel restrictions, we have received reports that this was a very big occasion and many hundreds of people attended from throughout Sumba. These events are not only celebrated within the Church, but local village heads and government officials are also invited, and do regularly attend such events. This joyous event is a testimony to the power of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel preaching, to change hardened and unenlightened hearts, and to mould them into willing disciples of Christ our Lord. While we focus on this as God's work, we should also acknowledge the work of His

### Examination of Br Simri - Lai Hobu



## Celebratory Worship service



*An emotional event,  
committing her life  
to God*

servant Rev Balla, who was instrumental in preaching the gospel to this village. We pray that this mission post may continue to thrive, and grow both in number, faithfulness and love for our Saviour.

### LaAu

The mission post at LaAu in the Central highlands of Sumba is continuing to grow. We received word that two additional unbelievers have been attending the worship services regularly, with a view to becoming members. Rev Arison also reports that on the Christmas day church service, he was able to preside over the public profession and baptism of one adult member, and also baptise one infant. We praise God for His work of faith in the hearts of these people and commend the two unbelievers to His grace and work of salvation. Rev Arison has

also had to deal with the passing into glory of his wife's mother, and we keep him and his family in our prayers, at this sad time of loss .

### Local

Finally, on a local level we will be farewelling Br Grant Bosveld who is relocating to Cairns in the near future. We thank him for his work within the committee and hope that the Lord blesses him and his family in their new

congregation. While he was not long in the mission committee, we pray that what he has gleaned from the work will benefit him in being active in his local church community, and if God wills, maybe in mission activities in the future.

### Till next time

**On behalf of Mission  
Indonesia**

**Eric de Haan**

## Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism



Renewing vows in a Christian ceremony



## Kids Corner - The Lord is King!



The Lord is King of the **whole** world! Not just of our home, or our town or our country. He rules over the whole earth!

The book of Psalms teaches us this truth in many places. It also tells us that because God is **King**, we should **praise** Him! It brings God **glory** when His children all over the world, sing praise to Him!

Maybe you know some psalms or hymns that speak about this. Can you fill in the blanks? (You can use your Book of Praise to look up the answers J+)

“The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_, enrobed with majesty!” (Psalm 93:1)

“Clap your hands and shout, let your \_\_\_\_\_ ring out! Peoples \_\_\_\_\_ and near, God Most High reverent! \_\_\_\_\_ King is he, great in majesty!” (Psalm 47:1)

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of \_\_\_\_\_!” (Hymn 78:1)

If you open your Bible or psalm book can you find another psalm that talks about God being King? \_\_\_\_\_.

Since the Lord is our King of the **whole** world, we know that He is in control of **everything** that happens. And because the King of the world is also our Heavenly Father, we know that He loves us and will **always** care for us.

Here is a picture of the world we live in and that God rules over. Can you join the names of the countries to where they are on the map?





# MISSION COMMITTEES

## **Mission NE Papua New Guinea**

*Sending Church:* Armadale

*Cooperating Churches:*

Byford, Darling Downs, Southern River, West Albany

*Supporting Churches:*

Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Launceston, Legana, Melville

Chairman: F Janssen (FRC Southern River)  
General Deputy: R Dekker (FRC Darling Downs)  
Meeting Secretary: R Plug (FRC Byford)  
Report Secretary: D Hordyk (FRC Byford)  
Treasurer: E Eikelboom (FRC Byford)

Members:

K Bruning (A) B Dykstra (A)  
J Swarts (DD) V vanDyke (DD) E Vandebos (SR)  
D teWierik (SR) N Dekker (WA) L t'Hart (WA)

Missionaries: Rev R & Mrs R DeJonge  
Mission Workers: Mr B & Mrs M van de Kamp

Web: <http://mission.frcarmadale.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/271603523844307>

## **Kelmscott/Mount Nasura**

Chairman: L vanBurgel  
Clerk: F Brits  
Member: F vanderLinde

## **Mission Philippines**—FRC Baldivis

Chairman (contact): W. VanderVen  
[wvdv11@gmail.com](mailto:wvdv11@gmail.com)

Members

H deJonge (B) D Velkamp (B) J Bolhuis (K)  
Rev. S 't Hart (Mel) Rev. C Vermeulen (DD)

Supporting and building reformed churches on Mindanao island in and around Cagayan de Oro.

## **Mission Aid North East PNG**

Members: Henry Strating (Chairman), Gerrit deVos (Treasurer), Brooklyn Vanderlaan (Secretary), Joel Bruning (General Member/Correspondence), Rohan Plug (Mission Board Liaison)  
Website: <http://missionaid.frcarmadale.com/>



**Mission News Magazine for the Mission and Mission Aid activities of the Free Reformed Churches in Australia.**

Mission News is published bi-monthly.

Mission News Committee: Dini Plug, Bradley Dykstra & Jordan Swarts

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

## **Mission Indonesia**

*Sending Church:* Rockingham

*Supporting Church:* Baldivis

Chairman (contact): Br E DeHaan (FRC Rockingham)  
[eric@zenecon.net.au](mailto:eric@zenecon.net.au)  
Vice-Chairman: Br B Bosveld (FRC Baldivis)  
Treasurer: Br B Bosveld (FRC Baldivis)  
Minutes Secretary: Br B Pleiter (FRC Baldivis)  
Correspondence English: Br Q Slobe (FRC Baldivis)  
Correspondence Indonesian: Br B Bosveld (FRC Baldivis)  
Consistory Liaison: Br A Byl (FRC Rockingham)  
Member: Br G Bosveld (FRC Rockingham)

Evangelists:

Rev Muriwali Yanto - Malang  
Rev Markus Ndihi Jawa - Tanabanas  
Rev Yan Pariamalinga - Bali  
Rev Balla Rihi - Maubukul  
Br Jhems Umbu Ngabi - Lae Wunga  
Br Arison Pekambani - LaAu  
Br Yan Laki Ngella - Lai Hobu  
Br Melkianus Kalambar Tara Amah - Watu Bara  
Rev Muriwali Yanto - Dampit (java)

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

## **Mission Sabu**—FRC Launceston

Committee: Chris Lee  
Sarah Heys  
John van Asperen

Pastor: Reverend Mada Bihah  
Reverend Windi Kurung  
Reverend Djara Wadu  
Reverend Amos Ndawa Mada  
Reverend Yohanis Here Pa

Evangelist: Brother Thomas Dida  
Brother Lay Djama Riwu

## **Mundijong Mission (LITINDO)**

Chairman: KA Wieske  
Secretary: C Bruning  
Treasurer: H deJonge