

MISSION NEWS

Mission Activities of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia

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"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:

Market preaching, spreading the Word to hundreds.

Guest Editorial

Have you ever thought about...

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Have you ever thought about mission in terms of how it affects land use? Maybe your first thought is that mission is about saving souls, not land use. After all, Jesus said: "Go and make disciples of all nations". What does that have to do with land use?

Yes, mission is about making disciples. But disciples will then serve God in and with every part of life, and that includes whatever land has been entrusted to their care.

We need to go back to the beginning. In Genesis 1, we see God at work preparing the world over which man would be given dominion, to use all things to the glory of God. This included the dry land, which was created on the third day. Previously, water had covered the earth, and the earth was therefore uninhabitable. By separating the dry land from the seas, God was preparing the giant stage of human history. This is where man would live and work, build houses and villages, farms and cities, factories and roads and airports and business parks and cathedrals. After all, as mankind was fruitful and multiplied, they would have to expand the garden, and build more places to live, and places to assemble, and places to grow and store their crops and care for the animals. With

more places being settled, there would need to be paths and roads and highways connecting them. The ground contained gold and other minerals, and to work them into items of use and beauty would eventually require factories. Additionally, the dry land would serve as the place where beauty could be displayed, in architecture and gardens and art displays, concerts and exhibitions, and beautifully decorated homes. Man would bring glory to God, as he filled the earth and developed it in obedience to God. He would do so as he discovered the rich possibilities in creation, praising God for His wisdom and order and goodness, and using what he discovered also to serve the needs and edification of his neighbour. Man would seek God's glory by taking good care of the land and animals and vegetation.

Rebelling against God's rule, man did not follow God's commands and use the dry land as a giant canvas on which to do all for God's glory. Instead, he filled the earth with violence (Gen. 6:13), so that God determined to render the earth uninhabitable by sending a flood and destroying mankind.

In His great mercy, God did not make a complete end of the human race, but delivered Noah and his family, to make a new

beginning with them on the cleansed earth. Moreover, although sin remained in the heart of man, God promised not to send such a flood again during the history of this earth. In promising this, God was preserving the stage on which man would be called to serve and glorify Him, also with his land use.

God preserved that dry land, so that eventually He could send His Son to earth to bring salvation and restoration to man. Jesus Christ walked throughout the land of Canaan, and taught as He went. He gave instructions relevant to using the land God had given to man. He taught them to pray for an earth filled with obedient activity – Your will be done, on *earth* as it is in heaven. Through His servants the apostles, He urged His followers to work diligently to provide food for themselves, their families and those in need (2 Thess. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:8; Eph. 4:28). When you think about it, that is instruction about land use – whether that work is actually farming the land, or building on it, or working in an office built on the land. Jesus taught His disciples not to idolize the products of the ground by anxiously worrying about where they would get their food and drink and clothing from, but to focus on seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness, trusting Him to provide. He warned about the folly of becoming rich from the products of the ground, but not being rich toward God (the parable of the rich fool). Paul's instructions about marriage and family and hospitality are going to affect the way the footprint of land that your house is on will get

used. Commands to show hospitality means that your home's floor space will be used to show kindness to others.

Commands about the loving way husband and wife are to interact, instructions about bringing children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, exhortations to think about what is pure and noble and lovely, are all going to shape the atmosphere developed, the furniture and decoration included, on that piece of land.

But instruction is not enough, for man's depravity means he neither wants to nor is able to heed the call of the gospel to repent and live in holiness, also in his land use. That is why the Lord Jesus did more than instruct the people about how to live repentant lives. He also laid down His life to free His people from sin. He gave up His place in the land of the living, to save those who are not inclined to use their piece of that land to God's glory. Having conquered sin and death, He rose victorious, and sent forth His disciples to proclaim to the world: "Repent, and believe in Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Through this gospel, people are saved, not to live in idleness as busybodies, but to serve God with every part of their life, including whatever land has been entrusted to their care.

It is true, when Jesus sent forth His apostles with the great commission, He did not speak about land use, but about making disciples. But because those disciples are called to live

“God preserved dry land so that He could send his Son to earth to bring salvation to man”

holy lives according to God's purposes in His creation, they will show their repentance also in the way they use their land to God's glory.

So we pray for mission, we contribute, we seek the goal of more disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the world. One of the purposes of that is that more of God's earth will be used for His glory. But then we also need to ask ourselves a question: does the way we use the land God has entrusted to our care reflect our desire that God is glorified in every part of the earth? Does our property, the land on which our factory stands, the rooms of our home, the things we do and display and share there, show that we care that the earth is filled with the glory of the LORD? After all, we are on our way to a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. We show that our future is on that earth, and the converts on the mission field do too, by using whatever parts of this earth have been entrusted to our care, to the glory of God, already today.

“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is Your Name in all the earth” (Psalm 8).

Southern River Mission Board

CHAIRMAN'S MUSINGS

If my sources are all correct, I believe that each member of the team on the field has contributed an article to this edition of the Mission News. No doubt, this will give you all a view of the mission work from the many perspectives it could be looked at. It also allows me to be brief.

It is with much thankfulness that God has blessed our 3 mission families in each different way. Since the last Mission News, Pastor Ryan and Sister Ruth and family have landed in PNG, done quarantine, and have gotten back into the work with much gusto. There are meetings to be had, debriefs, and then of course future planning. On top of that Sister Ruth recommenced home schooling and no doubt the deJonge children will be flying through the school year. Then even further away, Pastor David finished his course at CRTS and had a break with his side of the family, and now Pastor David and his wife Erika and two children find themselves at MTI, where they are doing further preparation for the work in PNG. Pastor David also was welcomed into the Free Reformed Church fold after

'passing' his colloquium that was held on the 21st of July in Kelmscott. And then coming back very close to us at home, Brother Ben and Sister Merinda welcomed baby Scott into the world, what a wonderful blessing it is to receive a child from God. What blessings indeed for our three families in the past couple of months.

For the board the work continues. We are formally now the Southern River Mission Board, and we look forward to working with the new sending church. The Board itself will be meeting next week Saturday (7th of August) in Albany DV. We appreciate the West Albany members on the Board, and whilst we have many IT solutions to bridge distances, its always nice that once per year we all head down to Albany to meet together.

Talking about Albany, it was very much appreciated that Rev P. Archbald, delegate from RCNZ, mentioned the work in PNG and also the excellent and loving relationship that their Overseas Mission Board has with our Mission Board. It is indeed true, we enjoy a very good relationship with New Zealand (and Canada of course), one that we have truly grown to nurture. As the three foreign boards, we do catch up with each other every three months so that we can information share (Tok Save), support one another in our tasks and deal with any matters of common. God has indeed blessed this relationship and it was

mentioned at the last Interboard (that's what we call it) meeting that indeed we should be really thankful to God for such blessings in our working relationship. Not only between the boards, but also the workers from all three boards that all is going very well.

Since I can be brief, we look forward to the next few months when hopefully the Pol's and van de Kamp's can return to the field and join up with the deJonge's to continue the work on the field. To God be all honour and glory.

Prayer points:

- Pray for indigenous Pastors in the churches of PNG so that the people may be blessed by hearing the preaching every Sunday.
- Pray that God will be with Pastor Ryan and Ruth as settle in and get heavily involved back in their tasks on the field
- Pray that God will be with Pastor David and the family as they continue to prepare themselves to take up the task in PNG and as they prepare to leave for PNG in September.
- Pray for Ben and Merinda as they await the final paperwork and vaccinations and plan to head off back to PNG in August
- Pray for working relationship of the three foreign boards with thankfulness that it truly is a blessing to be able to work so closely with our goals and aims aligned.

Frank Janssen

**Chairman Southern River
Mission Board**

**To God be
all honour
and glory.**

THE NEXT STEP

This past year has been one of great changes for the mission work that was begun by the Free Reformed Church of Armadale for work in Lae, Papua New Guinea. As of July 1, 2021, the sending church for this work is no longer Armadale but is now the Free Reformed Church of Southern River. As well, plans have been put in place to move beyond "Lae" as a geographical boundary, and even beyond "North-East PNG," the geographical descriptor that has been in use in recent years. The intention of Southern River and her mission board is that soon the geographical location of the mission work will simply be "Papua New Guinea," as plans and proposals are being made to look after some aspects of the work that are currently being done Toronto and New Zealand in the Port Moresby and Central Province areas.

Within these changing geographical boundaries, the hub of our work is also changing. For many years, the field workers lived and worked in Lae itself, and this worked out well during its time. Then in 2014, the entire team relocated to the property of Lae City Mission, which is approximately 11 miles out from town. Many of the readers of Mission News will be familiar with this property, as it came about as the result of a massive organizational and logistical effort to ship materials and workers to Lae to build the houses and grounds that we now refer to as "11 Mile." This new location provided more space for the growing missionary team and families, as well as quicker access to the church plant of Wantun in the Markham Valley.

Highlands

Now, seven years on from that move, and 2 years on from the

institution of the Living Water Reformed Church in Lae, we have become convinced that another move will be beneficial. After going back and forth about whether or not some of us would stay in Lae, we have decided it would make the most sense for all of us to relocate to the Highlands. Here briefly are some of the reasons for this move:

We believe it will be good for the independence and growth of Living Water Reformed Church to have less presence from the missionaries and support workers.

The work in and with Wantun can continue in the same way whether we are based in Lae or the Highlands. The distance to the Wantun church from 11 Mile and Ukarumpa is approximately equal.

A new group has started in Hila, Eastern Highlands Province, and is already holding weekly worship services.

Relocating to the Highlands cuts off 4-5 hours from the trip to visit and support that group. We have many contacts in the village of Koge, which is further into the Highlands in Simbu province. Developing these contacts and potentially starting a new church plant there will be much easier if based in the Highlands.

The area of Ukarumpa and the nearby town of



Kainantu is an area that is a Seventh Day Adventist stronghold. From our experience, the Seven Day Adventist church in PNG is not one in which people find peace and comfort in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Instead, it operates much like a cult and burdens its members under a system of legalist righteousness. For this reason, we believe that it would be good to do outreach work and, if the Lord blesses, to plant churches in this area.

While moving deeper into the Highlands—to Goroka, Kundiawa, or even Mount Hagen—would be possible, we believe it is advantageous to remain fairly close to Lae. From the Eastern Highlands Province, we can be in Lae within 4-5 hours for meetings, conferences, or other outreach work that we might organize with the Living Water Reformed Church, as well as continue to support the Living Water Christian School.

Ukarumpa

I have already mentioned the name Ukarumpa several times.

Ukarumpa is the name of the main operations centre for SIL-PNG, an organization that carries out work in Bible translation and literacy in PNG. SIL-PNG is an extension of Wycliffe Bible Translators in places like Australia and Canada. They use the moniker SIL (“Summer Institute of Linguistics”) internationally because it allows them to work in places that are hostile to the Bible and the Christian faith. Ukarumpa has been in operation since 1957, and currently houses about 300-400 people from around the world. Most of those people work exclusively for SIL-PNG, but there are others like us who do not.

Since its inception, the goal for Ukarumpa has been that it would allow SIL-PNG to be entirely self-sufficient so that they would be able to carry out their calling of translating God’s Word into the many (over 800) languages of PNG most efficiently. As a result, Ukarumpa has its own store, post office, K-12 school, print shop, mechanic shop, woodworking shop, security, health clinic, dental clinic, airstrip, etc. While SIL and Wycliffe members have access to all these services at very low rates, SIL also offers these services to other mission organizations at discounted rates, and even to members of the general public at standard business rates.

What this means for us is that we can live at and work from Ukarumpa and benefit from the infrastructure that they have already developed. When we considered

different options for living in the Highlands, Ukarumpa was the clear winner, both because it will allow us to focus maximally on our main work of preaching the gospel and planting churches, but also because of its location between Lae and the rest of the Highlands.

One example of this is schooling for our family. Our family has always homeschooled, and we will continue to do that for most of our children. However, once you get to the High School grades, the schooling becomes more time-consuming, more specialized, and requiring more assistance. For this reason, even many homeschoolers will make use of online schooling for the High School years. For us, moving to Ukarumpa means that Ruth can continue to teach the younger children, while Matthew our oldest is enrolled at Ukarumpa’s High School. This will give Ruth more time to focus on the other children while allowing us to ensure that Matthew continues with a high-quality education that will give him the option to pursue post-secondary education if he desires. Before we moved to PNG, we were not sure that we would be able to remain here once Matthew became High School age (and this was something we communicated to the board at that time). Now, we don’t have to worry about that dilemma, which is a great relief, because we have no desire to cease with the work.

Just this past month, we signed a “Partners in Ministry” agreement with SIL-PNG, in which we recognize that each other’s mission and vision are compatible, and we agree to

Lae, PNG

work together in partnership. We are now in the process of working on a “Service Agreement” for our family, in which SIL-PNG agrees to offer its service to us, and we agree to live by their rules and also provide them with some assistance in return. We have not worked out the details yet, so I don’t know what that assistance will be, but there is the possibility that I will be helping out at their Training Centre, helping to teach their translators in areas of Biblical interpretation and exegesis. Each family that wants to live at Ukarumpa will need to enter into one of these Service Agreements, and so each of us will be required to offer some assistance to the SIL and Ukarumpa communities, which we are happy to do. Helping out SIL will mimic what we were able to do at LCM at 11-mile with the young men, i.e. help the organisation that is helping us.

The plan is for our family to move to Ukarumpa from Lae in the middle of October, shortly after I am installed as a missionary of Southern River. The Pol family will be doing the same as soon as they arrive from Canada. The van de Kamp family will join us there sometime next year, as soon as it is feasible for them while taking into consideration their work with the LWCS school.

11 Mile

The big question that I’m sure you are asking is, “What about 11 Mile?” The short answer to that is “We don’t know yet.” Our agreement with Lae City Mission runs until 2024, at which time we are to renegotiate terms with them.



This essentially gives us and the mission board 2 years to work out a solution. We recognize the huge blessing that 11 Mile has been to the work, as well as the great potential that the property continues to have. At the same time, for the reasons listed above, we feel that it is not the best location for where the work is going and will be for the next 5-10 years. For now, we are committed to praying and asking for the Lord’s insight and guidance about 11 Mile. We greatly appreciate your prayers for the same.

Regarding the work that I have been doing with the young men there—the Thursday night Bible

studies and the Reformed Churches Bible College scholarship, we are hopeful that these will continue in some way. In fact, there will be more of a Reformed presence at City Mission moving forward, as Joel Sine, one of the elders in Lae, has been recently hired by City Mission and will be teaching courses on discipleship to the young men.

Ryan deJonge

Lae, PNG

MANAGERIAL PATERNALISM

What do churches and young men have in common? There comes a time in each of their lives when they are called to leave their mothers and begin their lives on their own. However, as with young men, mother churches can often make it very difficult for their children to leave. And the reasons are not always just financial. Sometimes the reasons go deeper than that.

Today I would like to look at one of the contributing factors: Managerial Paternalism.

Jerry

To set the stage: I want you to imagine, for a moment, young man named Jerry. Jerry is an affable young man, relatively easy to talk to when you engage him on topics that he enjoys. However, there is one thing that stands out to you as concerning. Jerry is growing older. He's approaching his thirties yet has never moved out of his parent's basement.

Jerry has finished high school but was never able to figure out what he wanted to do in life. Since he's got no direction, his motivation is rather lacking. He's got it good at home. He's never had to take responsibility for anything in life. His mother even wakes him up to make sure he gets to work on time. She micromanages his schedule. She swoops in whenever he falls short and fixes it for him. And since it makes life easier, he doesn't complain.

Yet there is a problem: Since he has never had to save up for, nor plan and organize for any big or long-term goals, he has no idea what he wants out of his future nor what he aimed for. Since he has no direction or purpose in mind and his parents micromanage his schedule, he's never had to learn the basic skills required for independence.

His parents have certainly tried to on occasion, moving him into different townhouses with friends who are renting together, but his mom would frequently be seen at his home, picking up his dirty laundry, cleaning his room, etc. When time to pay rent comes up, he gets a reminder text. And he soon ends up moving back home. After all, what changed? Life simply became more difficult, and it was more inconvenient for him to rely on his parents away from home. They are ready to receive him back. And since it makes life easier, he does not complain.

Among other things, Jerry is struggling with Managerial Paternalism. And since it makes life easier, he doesn't complain.

Managerial Paternalism

So what exactly is "Managerial Paternalism"?

Managerial Paternalism is a phrase coined by Corbett and Fikkert in their popular book, *"When Helping Hurts"*. "Paternalism" can be described on Wikipedia as "action that limits a person's or group's liberty or autonomy and is intended to promote their own

good". Managerial Paternalism takes this mindset and applies it more specifically to the oversight of projects, mission fields or organizations.

Contrary to popular belief, paternalism is not by definition a bad thing. When projects are in the stages of infancy, it is very valuable and ought to be appreciated. Just as a child needs oversight until he reaches the age of majority, so too do organizations on the ground.

The tricky part, however, is discovering what that transition looks like as a child moves from infancy to adulthood. In biological families the slow transition towards independence is already a tricky thing. Parents need to figure out how to gradually give their children more freedom and responsibility in life, entrusting them to the God who watches over them as well. The child needs more freedom to take charge of their own life, make their own decisions, and yes, make their own mistakes as well. They need to move away from "Managerial Paternalism" in the family and transition the child to a position of independence as the child comes to an age when they start to be able to do things for themselves.

This transition becomes terribly difficult when your children start to make mistakes. If they sleep in, they might get penalized at work which might lead to them getting fired. If their rent is forgotten, they might get evicted. And to top it all off, they are just so *inefficient* at everything. It is just *easier* for you to do things for them. From their perspective it is also easier if you're always there to cushion their fall. Yet such behaviour is simply not sustainable. You cannot always be there for them, doing everything for them, or they will

never grow to be independent.

We run into the same problem with organizations, churches, or schools that we're involved with in developing nations, don't we? One of the main problems that we, as people from developed countries, run into is that we have such a hard time letting go. Yes, they can do things for themselves. Yet it is so much easier just to do everything for those under our care. It's much more efficient. And those on the receiving end don't complain anyways. After all, why would they? It makes life easier and the falls softer for them.

Here, however, is where we run into trouble. There is a time and a place for Managerial Paternalism. There is a time and a place for being in charge of everything and making sure that it all runs smoothly. But we cannot carry this on indefinitely without expecting problems down the road. There is a time in life when we need to transition those under our care towards independence.

The Problems:

In his article on "Fostering Sustainability and Minimizing Dependency in Mission Finances", Ken Stout defines dependency in the following way:

"Dependency occurs when a local church requires funding or leadership from outside of its own members in order to carry out the core biblical responsibilities of a local church under normal, non crisis conditions."
(Emphasis added)

While much broader in scope than our article today, Stout's

article still contains many helpful insights that apply to our topic. Stout lays out six concerning outcomes of dependency, two of which (with some adaptation) tie in directly to the question of Managerial Paternalism. Those are:

1. Lack of Ownership

Stunted Growth

Lack of Ownership: The idea is fostered in their hearts that God has not given them what they need to reach out in their own community.

Stunted Growth: Ideas are limited to only what can be accomplished with foreign oversight. When foreign oversight is no longer available growth grinds to a halt. The spirit of volunteerism ends.

Through efforts to help, it is possible for the outcome to result in harm on the local level.

Question and Answer

So what is to be done? How is the outcome of limiting growth to be avoided?

Begin by recognizing that there is a sliding scale of maturity. Paternalism can be extremely helpful in the initial stages of a project. However, it is not meant to be a permanent state of affairs.

Then work to see what can be done to encourage a growth in maturity. There is an end goal in sight. Now how do you get there?

The following chart from Corbett and Fikkert's book "*When Helping Hurts*" provides a helpful framework towards reaching this goal.

As you look at this chart ask yourself: where do the people in my care fall on this chart? How can I best encourage them towards a state in which they use their own gifts and talents in service of God's Kingdom?

A Participatory Continuum ¹		
Mode of participation	Type of involvement of local people	Relationship of outsiders to local people
Coercion	local people submit to predetermined plans developed by outsiders.	DOING TO
Compliance	Local people are assigned to tasks, often with incentives, by outsiders; The outsiders decide the agenda and direct the process.	DOING FOR
Consultation	Local people's opinions are asked; Outsiders analyze and decide on a course of action.	DOING FOR
Cooperation	Local people work together with outsiders to determine priorities; Responsibility remains with outsiders for directing the process.	DOING WITH
Co-Learning	Local people and outsiders share their knowledge to create appropriate goals and plans, to execute those plans, and to evaluate the results.	DOING WITH
Community initiated	Local people set their own agenda and mobilize to carry it out without outside initiators and facilitators.	RESPONDING TO

1: Corbett and Fikkert, "When Helping Hurts", page 140.

Just as with our children, people under our care are on a continuum of growth. Just as with our children (like Jerry in our example above) they need the opportunity to spread their wings and fulfill their calling using their God-given gifts to the best of their ability.

As they grow older, or as the people under our care grow to be more mature and independent, not only do they by God's grace become more fruitful, but our own ministry is freed up to become fruitful in

other places. Thus the work of God is multiplied!

It's hard to take these steps. It's easiest to remain with what is most comfortable for us and for them. Yet what we are doing is for the glory of God and for the spread of Christ's fame! And that makes it all worthwhile.

As we interact with those under our care, let's not take the way out that is easiest for us and them. Rather, let us seek to challenge each other and ourselves as we seek to "equip the saints for works of ministry and to build

up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ." (Eph 4:13).

David Pol, 2021

West Timor

NEW HOPE (HARAPAN BARU)

*"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles". Isaiah 40:31*



Hi everyone,

Unfortunately there is no first hand news from New Hope this week.

At present the Dethan family and many in the community are suffering quite badly with what sounds like covid. While it's been a stressful time for them they feel they are now on the right track to recovery. They were all suffering severe flu symptoms and Femmy also suffering panic attacks. The stress of having to be hospitalized was very real but given the state of their healthcare it was their very last option. They are extremely thankful it hasn't come to that. Usually if there are serious health concerns they would go to Bali for healthcare but now this isn't an option with covid restrictions.

Having a covid test also sounds a fairly pointless exercise with inconsistencies in testing and risks of getting

infected on being tested if you didn't have it already.

It sounds like there is a long recovery still but we pray that it will be speedy and that there are no long term health effects for the family. We pray especially that they experience God's peace and nearness as they feel isolated from distant family and friends.

Please keep them in your prayers.

Dethan's and the community are still getting back on their feet with cleanup after cyclone Seroja. The previous Mission News article gave details on the damage that New Hope and the community went through. If you would like to contribute to their rebuilding efforts, it would be hugely appreciated.

New Hope Australia

BSB: 066-007

Account number: 10182194

Thank you to those who have already reached out!

We appreciate your prayers and support for New Hope and thank God for the faithful work and commitment by Ed and Femmy.

Grace and peace,
Sam & Lisa.

LIVING WATER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

It has been some time since, I (Ben van de Kamp) wrote an update in the Mission News about the Living Water Christian School (LWCS). For those who are unaware, this school is situated by the Living Water Reformed Church in Lae and teaches around 120 students over 4 grades (Prep B – Grade 2). The Board and staff are members of the church and aim to provide a Christian education for the children of the Church and the surrounding community.

With the Mission Support Worker position being mostly vacant last year after Brother Julian repatriated and myself not available to assist the school until October 2020, a greater burden of responsibility was placed on the national leadership of the school. Although difficult for our teachers, especially negotiating the initial COVID-19 lockdowns, the school year was completed and

32 students graduated from Grade 2! This year has been a similar situation due to our family returning to Australia after Term 1. We are thankful for the administrative assistance that Sr. Cheree van der Wal has given to help the school run smoothly in our absence.

Schooling in a Papua New Guinean context has been interesting to observe. Overall the quality of education in PNG is quite poor, and literacy rates are low among the adult population. In 2015, the adult literacy rate was estimated to be 63% with it being lower amongst the elderly and females. The PNG Education Department officially recommends class sizes of 40 students per teacher, but in reality this ratio is often 50+ students per teacher, with schools poorly resourced and teachers not always paid regularly due to corruption and mismanagement of funds. School attendance is not

always encouraged by parents and complicating the situation is that education in PNG is done in English. Many children are first exposed to English at school. As many parents are reluctant to speak English at home, preferring to focus on Tok Pisin and their local 'Tok Ples' language, it is a hard slog for the children to learn to read and write in English when in many cases it is their third language!

Amidst all this, the Living Water School is able to provide a higher than average education, with the graduating students moving onto nearby public schools excelling and even skipping grades on enrolment. The surrounding local community in Kamkumung (the area the church and school is located in), is highly aware of this and demand for enrolments at the LWCS continues to grow.

For those of you who have been to visit Lae, you would know Mama Grace, our former Head Teacher. At the end of last year, after 9 years of service, she resigned to pursue further teaching education and a career in the Lutheran School system. Mama Jen, another of our teachers, was found willing to take on the Head Teacher responsibilities for 2021 and the school is thankful to God for providing staff necessary to continue on. The other teachers are Sr. Vanessa Sine, Sr. Imelda Wira and Sr. Clothilde Aufa. Christopher Matthias has become the new Education Assistant. Both Vanessa and Christopher are supported by Mission Aid to further their studies and hopefully pursue a career in teaching.



Students in one of the new classrooms

Brother Paul Kamina, the school

groundsman, continues in his various duties. One of his latest projects has been the raising of meat chickens as a fundraiser for the school. Initially the project went well, and Paul was able to successfully raise 3 batches of about 50 chickens. However the latest batch was a bit less successful, with a few chickens dying prematurely, and some being 'sold' to customers promising payment or donated to those in need. As a result, Paul is considering changing to egg layers in the future. For now, he has turned his focus to making bricks for a new fence along the front of the school property.

One of the biggest challenges for the school in the past year has been the COVID-19 lockdowns. With no online schooling options, and limited internet access for teachers and parents, making and communicating lesson plans has been difficult. Last year the school was closed for a few months during the initial lockdown, and this year there was another 4 week lockdown. The teachers have shown great initiative during these times by preparing weekly lesson packets for the parents to pickup for the students to complete at home.

Under the blessing of God, the school has continued on through the challenges of COVID-19, changing staffing arrangements and limited support from mission personnel. With the mission team moving into the highlands region DV, there will also be challenges as the national school board and staff take on more responsibility for the running of the school.



Mama Jen teaching the Year 2 Students



Students going to buy kaikai at recess

As this process develops, we pray that the school may continue to be a blessing to the church and Kamkumung community.

From Mission Aid:

Mission Aid is also active in raising funds to help aspiring teachers within the Lae congregation to study at the teacher's college in Port Moresby. You may or may not have donated on the Mission Aid website asking for funds for a teacher training scholarship. Mission Aid hopes to have this as a yearly or continual event, to help people who want to study teaching or be able to study a matriculation course which will then give them the grades to commence their teaching studies. This is

very helpful as most of the teachers are mothers who willingly volunteer their time to teach the classes and having people of the same faith who have studied and have qualifications will take a lot of pressure off them having to meet the demands of teaching big classes and be mother.

The Mission Aid committee also encourages everyone to continue to remember the birthday appeal. We have been blessed over the last couple of years, since it's reintroduction in 2019, with a great response from various congregations involved with mission work in North East PNG. Please if you can, keep up the great work. A lot of the funds from the birthday appeal have helped Ruth Dejonge to

purchase and ship the My Fathers World Christian Curriculum to PNG. This Christian curriculum was developed in the US and is easier for the volunteer teachers in Wantun to follow and teach their students.

Mission Aid would also like to thank everyone who donated to the classroom project. We do thank the Lord for providing generous and willing people to donate to a very important project, that has blessed and continues to bless the students at the school immensely.

God is really blessing the work of the school board and the teachers, but they need strength and energy to carry out their tasks especially when classes are quite large. Pray for Ben and Merinda as they hope to continue their work in Lae with the school and with Pastor Ryan and family, before making the move to the highlands. It's never easy moving but we trust that the Lord has everything under control.

If you are not able to access the website and would still like to donate to the Teacher Training Fund, you can do so with these details:

Name: Mission Aid
BSB: 066-131
Acc: 00902095

Just remember to add which project you're donating to.

To God be the glory,

Ben and Merinda and the Mission Aid committee.

Birthday Corner

August

Abigail deJonge

12/08/2014

Nikolas vanderWal

13/08/2009

Madison vanderWal

15/08/2015

Jonathan Kleijn

19/08/2008

September

Andrew Kleijn

5/09/2011

October

Mrs Cheree vanderWal

20/10/1986

Timothy deJonge

20/10/2012

Samuel deJonge

31/10/2010



SEROJA CRISIS UPDATE

As you are no doubt aware, Sumba and large parts of eastern Indonesia were devastated by Cyclone Seroja which also destroyed much of Kalbarri and cut a large swathe of destruction through our mid-west. The cyclone has caused much damage to the eastern half of the Island of Sumba where almost all our sister churches and their mission posts are located. We received a call for help from the GGRI internal deputies, which was passed on to individual churches in the Perth metro area by the deputies for inter-church relations (Indonesia). Numerous churches have held special collections or have donated lump sums to help this cause. These monies have been collated by the deacons of Rockingham, and with the assistance of the Indonesian Mission committee, the first instalment has been sent. The support given in this initial stage of support is broken down as follows:

Initial support from WA Metro

GGRI Tanalingu - Main Church

The main church of GGRI Tanalingu collapsed to the ground. The cyclone destroyed the building.



churches sent to Sumba amounted to:

Rp 327,281,500 (rough rule of thumb for converting into dollars is to take off last four digits).

This money supplied assistance for replacement or repair to 32 homes & 11 churches which were either severely damaged or totally destroyed by the cyclone and resulting floods. Ten families were given emergency food relief due to loss of crops or income and money sent, also covered costs for transportation of goods and building materials.

We do expect there to be further requests for assistance, as money given was for mostly material goods only and does not factor in any labour required to repair or replace buildings. We are also waiting for further detailed reports of damage to other parts of Sumba. We are mindful of the need to be patient for this information, as their internal deputies are no doubt still struggling to assess the situation and have confined their initial response to the areas of greatest need in the south of the island.



Name: Rev. Ferdinand Tamu Ama
Church: GGRI Padiratana

The cyclone left him and his family only one room in the back where now he uses as a bedroom and kitchen.

We received this response from the co-ordinator for the relief effort in Sumba:

Dear Brothers & Sisters

Greetings in God. We are very grateful to God, because for his grace the Free Reformed Churches were called to immediately help us GGRI-NTT who were stricken by disaster.

Thank you Deacons Rockingham FRCA for collecting and sending funds received on June 4, 2021.

We still hope and pray to God for FRCA may continue to help GGRI-NTT because there are still many branch churches and gospel posts and houses and congregational land damaged or lost. May the Triune God help and bless His Church.

Greetings from our Rev. Zakaria Maramba Chairman of Deputies In GGRI-NTT

Sumba & the Seroja Crisis

Name: Ndula Maramba
Church: GGRI Padiratana

His house completely collapsed to the ground. He and his family are now living temporarily in his neighbour's house. His house needs to be rebuilt again



Rev. Sem not only suffered from the cyclone but also from the flood. He lost most his belongings inside the house including books and beds. He and his family are now temporarily living in a small hut in his farming field.

Name: Filipus Kadu Amah
Church: GGRI Tanahamu

The flood took his house away, and all the possessions that he had inside. He is planning to rebuild again but need support from church donations or the government.



Pictured are some of the photos received showing the impact of the Cyclone & Floods.

Please continue to support this appeal when your church collects for this, and remember our brothers and sisters affected by this disaster in your prayers. We will try to keep you posted as more relevant information comes to hand via this magazine.

EdH

7. GGRI Maumaru – Mission Post Wai Luri

This mission post is no longer standing after the cyclone destroyed the whole building.





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

August 2021

Dear readers.

It seems that for the past year and a half we have been stuck in some sort of time warp with a seemingly never-ending cycle of restrictions, lockdowns & Covid updates. It pervades every aspect of our lives and is constantly on the news, social media and in our discussions. And this is in spite of living in what is probably the safest place on the planet, when it comes to the risk of actually contracting the virus! Spare a thought (& a prayer) then, for how much more real it is for those going through this crisis in places like Indonesia, where infections are in the tens of thousands daily, and the mortality rate is approaching 1500 people per day. In the East Nusa Tenggara province in which Sumba is located there are 11,563 people currently infected with the virus & 672 people are reported to have died. This number is the official record but is not a true reflection of the actual cases, as most sick people from the outlying districts will simply not go to a hospital when sick. The general population is still under strict restrictions which limit their ability to travel, work, worship and study. You might be excused for thinking that this would have a detrimental effect on the

mission work, but the reports we have received, show clearly that while mankind is limited in what he is able to do during this crisis, God is still busy building his church and bringing his kingdom to its glorious and inevitable conclusion. Here is a brief update on what has been happening in some of the mission posts:

Java – Malang, Dampit, Blitar & Solo

Work is continuing in the mission posts at Malang and Dampit. After some delay due to travel restrictions, Evangelist Jackson Kambaru Windi is due to travel to Dampit in August to take up his post there. The committee has been busy

ensuring he has the necessary funds and materials available so he can begin his work as soon as his feet hit the ground. Rev Yanto from Malang has been busy in preparations for setting up a new mission post in the City of Blitar which is approx. 75 Kilometres from Malang. A former student of his, Br Firman Hadiwiyoni is already working part time there, and reports received indicate that 1 Muslim family has already converted to Christianity with some others attending weekly preaching services. He is also teaching catechism to the new converts. Whilst at this stage we are not able to formally accept responsibility for this new post, please keep this brother and his family in your prayers, along



Rev Yanto, Ev Endrow & 2 congregation members inspecting new church foundations at Solo

with the oversight provided by Rev Yanto & the Kataka Consistory. The worship group in Solo is continuing to prosper under the guidance of Evangelist Endrow and this group has begun foundation work for a new church building.

Sumba – Kawangu, Laindeha & Maubokul

Kawangu is the latest mission post to be initiated, and is currently served by Rev Balla Rihi. He preaches at this post every Sunday and Catechism classes are held on Thursday afternoons. As Rev Balla is extremely busy with other duties in the mission posts of Maubokul and Laindeha, & as new mission post coordinator, he will be assisted in this post for 1 year by

an internship student from the Theological College in Waimarungu. This student will be living with rev Balla during his internship. Currently there are between 12-20 members from 7 families joining the worship services every Sunday at this new post.

Laindeha was the 2nd post to be established and is in the village where Rev Balla has recently built a house. Worship services are currently being held at his home, but plans are currently underway to build a new church building with the support of Mission Aid. Cost for this project is \$11,500. Rev Balla has generously donated half of his land for the location of the new church building. In May this year the Lord richly blessed this post with the public profession of faith of 3 adults, baptism for 2 children and 2 married couples confirmed their marriage vows in a Christian ceremony.

Maubokul is continuing to function well as a mission post. This post has close to 50 people regularly attending the worship services which are led by Rev Balla. They were also richly blessed with the baptism and public profession of faith of 27 members in November last year. This congregation had been busy finalizing the work on the new church building,

only to have part of the roof blown off by Cyclone Seroja. Some structural damage was also sustained to the building. As this was one of our mission posts, we have sent the necessary funds to effect repairs through Mission Aid (\$1070)

Tanambanas – This mission post situated in the northwest part of Sumba has always struggled with water issues during the dry season. There are no wells in this village and water must be transported by motorbike or carried up to 3 kilometres from the nearest spring. Having experienced the necessity to travel 7 kilometres simply to bathe in the closest stream, we understood the urgency of a request for support to build a permanent underground storage facility, utilizing the church roof during the rainy season. Mission Aid supported \$3250 for this recently completed project.



Rev Balla preaching from his home at Laindeha

Damaged church roof Maubokul



**Tanambanas: Underground water storage.
No machine digging here! And forming a lid for the tank.**



**Right:
Rev Markus inspecting the
completed concrete tank.**



Mission Post District Mahu (Laingada & Katundul)

We received an extensive report from evangelist Novianus Benjamin on his work in the villages of Laingada and Katundul. This report contained detailed information on preaching & visiting rosters. Rather than paraphrase for him I will let him tell you directly (report condensed for brevity purposes)

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AT MISSION POST MAHU

(LAINGADA AND KATUNDUL)

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ as King of the church,

Praise the name of our Triune God who continues to call us to serve him in his mission field. Also, greetings from the congregations at the mission posts at Laingada and Katundul to be passed on to the mission committee in Australia as well as to our brothers and sisters in the Lord in Australia. WE hope that you also are experiencing good health even during this time of Covid-19 which is affecting the whole world. We also continue to

request the prayers of our brothers and sisters in Australia, so that we remain strong in our faith and not live in fear, because we know that God is watching over us with his blessings.

Worship service on Sundays:

Worship services continue to be held very regularly every Sunday at the mission post of Laingada in the morning and at Katundul in the afternoon even during this time of Covid pandemic. We have continued to come together for worship keeping in mind a health protocol. We have done so in obedience to God's word. All this has been done together in prayer, together with the prayers of our brothers and sisters in Australia. At the moment I am regularly preaching from God's word starting with the book of Genesis. I have started at the beginning of the bible as many have never heard what is written in the Old Testament or are not familiar with it.

Visiting the congregation:

I continue to visit the members of the congregation to encourage them and teach them about how to live as a true Christian. I also regularly visit those who are sick and are afraid to come to church because of Corona Virus, this way they still hear God's word have a discussion on what they do not understand clearly, and they do not feel distanced from the congregation.

Evangelism work:

I continue to do my calling work as evangelist among those who do not yet know our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They may have heard about God but do not really understand who this God is and are not attending church anywhere. The purpose of these visits is not just to bring them under the care of the GGRI Church, but to bring them from darkness to the Light of God's Word. This activity continues with a visiting roster, this has not been regular due to the condition of the Corona Virus. However, some of these village visits have been made.

Thanksgiving visits:

Family devotions have been arranged at the request of the congregation members as they receive blessings from the Lord in their lives and want to express their thanks for them.

Economic situation of the congregation:

Most of the family members I have been visiting and now attending church are farmers. During the wet season they grow their crops, but during the dry season crops can't be planted. During the dry season they look for other means of income, such as collecting Guava seeds and

Pecan nuts to sell at the markets or raising some chickens and pigs. The economic situation of the congregation is very low and that can be seen in the weekly collections. We receive between Rp 20,000 and Rp 25,000 per week. (\$2-\$2.50)

Extra activities:

Extra activities carried out besides routine activities such as:

- Consistory meetings at each area
- Full consistory meetings with sending church and all posts

- Christmas program
- Family visits
- Pre marriage visits.
- Visit neighbouring churches for Christmas program.
- Celebrations together with congregation for Christmas and New Year:

Number of congregation members for the posts at Laingada and Katundul:

At Laingada we currently have 20 Members, and at Katundul we have 27 members attending the worship services.

Church Community Laingada

Explanation: We have increased in number by some children being born in the congregation and we have had others join the church from outside.

Children born to the congregation:

1. Rista May Ngadi
2. Kevin Kota Landu

Members join from outside the church:

1. Habita Meha
2. Maily Ana Awa
3. Oktafian Umbu Ndamung
4. Audy Lia Rambu Ina
5. Atris Gisel Fihu Walu

This is the complete report I have prepared; I hope this information gives you an understanding of the work I have been busy with. Please pass on my warm greetings to our brothers and sisters in the Lord in your congregations.

May the Love and Peace of the Lord our Triune God be with you all in Australia.

Novianus Benjamin.

I think that if you have managed to read up to this point of the article, you will agree that clearly God is still busy working in building His church in Indonesia. It is a testament to the powerful working of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of those receiving the gospel, and His work through the dedicated efforts of the evangelists and ministers in the mission posts, that continues to encourage us as mission committee. While we

cannot travel or support at a personal level, the evangelists often comment to us, that more than anything, they crave our prayers for the work they are involved in. Surely that is something we can all do
– James 5:16

Finally on a local note; We welcome br Jesse Moesker as a new member of the mission committee. We hope he will quickly find his feet in his new role. We also get an added benefit from his appointment, as his wife Ester is a native-born Indonesian, which will greatly assist us with future translation work :)

Till next time

On behalf of the Indonesian Mission Committee

Eric de Haan


Therefore confess your SINS
 to each other and PRAY
 for each other so that you may
 be HEALED. The PRAYER of
 a righteous PERSON is
 POWERFUL and EFFECTIVE.

—
James 5:16



*** Kids Pages ***

Can You find all the 12 Tribes of Israel hidden in this word search? Words may be found in any direction including backwards!

Twelve Tribes of Israel Word Search Game

This Bible word search game has 12 answers.

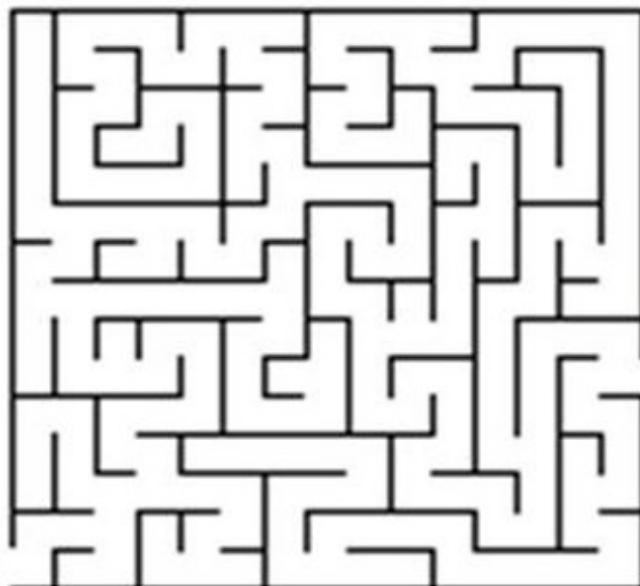
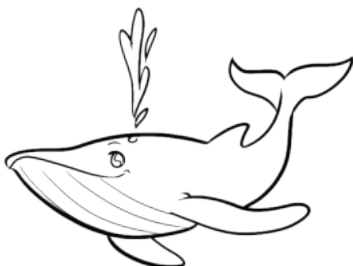
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E	B	Z	W	X	E	F	E	I	B	W	D	R	A	U
B	I	W	M	Y	O	N	T	N	I	K	A	I	P	T
U	R	H	P	E	S	O	J	K	R	R	V	O	H	H
E	I	X	N	Z	P	O	U	A	D	P	I	N	T	A
R	X	V	O	A	W	D	D	T	M	C	D	S	A	T
I	W	G	E	Z	X	E	A	O	O	I	L	G	L	C
B	C	H	P	L	L	H	H	E	D	A	N	I	I	H
M	O	P	Q	L	B	M	M	M	R	U	T	H	D	D
Z	A	A	R	I	S	S	A	C	H	A	R	N	X	W
O	Q	I	S	A	S	P	X	O	F	U	U	W	C	G
D	A	G	T	H	S	T	E	F	Y	L	A	X	Q	N
P	Z	J	U	K	E	N	X	M	U	B	W	L	S	S
Q	I	K	V	N	A	R	U	B	I	S	R	A	E	L
R	P	L	W	A	I	Q	E	S	N	T	K	Y	A	T
A	E	D	I	M	O	Z	Y	Q	U	D	X	B	N	C

Reuben - Simeon - Levi - Judah - Zebulun - Issachar - Dan - Gad - Asher - Naphtali - Joseph - Benjamin

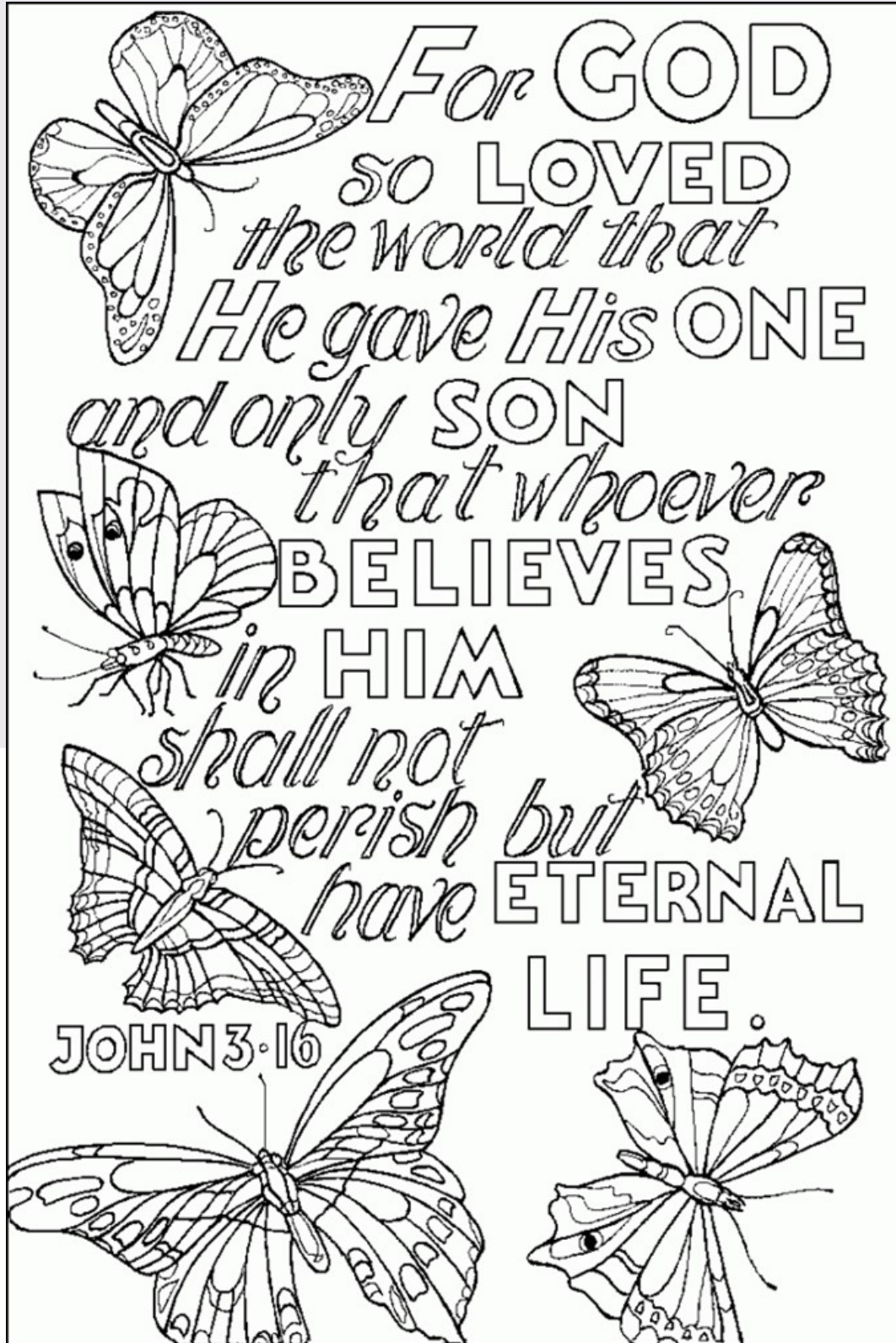
Jonah and the Big Fish

Help Jonah get past the Big Fish

**Can you help
Jonah find his way
out of the belly of
the big fish?**



*** Kids Pages ***



Please colour in these beautiful butterflies as God created them.

MISSION COMMITTEES

Mission North East Papua New Guinea

Sending Church: Southern River

Cooperating Churches:

Armadale, Byford, Darling Downs, 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)

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K Bruning (A) B Dykstra (A) N Huizinga (A)
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Web: www.frcmissionpng.org

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

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H deJonge (B) D Veltkamp (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), Elaine VandenBos (Mission Board Liaison)



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Correspondence Indonesian: Br B Bosveld (FRC Baldvis)
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Member: Br J Moesker (FRC Rockingham)

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Rev Markus Ndihi Jawa - Tanabanas
Rev Yan Pariamalinga - Bali
Rev Balla Rihi - Maubukul
Br Jhems Umbu Ngabi - Lae Wunga
Rev Arison Pekambani - LaAu
Br Yan Laki Ngella - Lai Hobu
Br Melkianus Kalambar Tara Amah - Watu Bara
Ev Jekson Kambaru Windi - Dampit (java)
Ev Novianus Benyamin - LKaingada & Katundul

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

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Reverend Windi Kurung
Reverend Djara Wadu
Reverend Amos Ndawa Mada
Reverend Yohanis Here Pa

Evangelist: Brother Thomas Dida
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