

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

PRAY FOR ME



If you spoke with one of our missionaries or mission workers, what request might they make? I suspect that they'd say, 'Pray for me.' Will you commit to doing this? Having chatted with a missionary—or having read this Mission News or one of their social media updates—will you participate in the work of mission by bringing it to God in prayer?

Paul knew the importance of prayer. In his letters he often prayed for the believers and asked that they pray for him. For instance, he requests in the closing words to the Ephesians: "And pray for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel" (Eph 6:19, NKJV). As he did his work in the fledgling churches and also among those who didn't yet know the Lord Jesus, he depended heavily on God's help and strength. For his

preaching task, Paul knew that he needed all the resources of heaven behind him.

Pray, he says, "that utterance may be given." Every preacher who's ever been nervous before opening the Word can relate to this request. In those moments, our own weakness and unworthiness suddenly become apparent. We experience the weightiness of what we're about to do, preaching the Word of the living God! So we ask God to give us 'utterance.' We ask God to bless our mind with clarity, and our words with power.

Our missionaries have the task of proclaiming the gospel of salvation in Christ. No message on earth is more significant, for if a person accepts it by true faith, they will be delivered from the kingdom of darkness and granted life everlasting. So we ask the Holy Spirit to help them speak God's Word freely, clearly, and boldly. It is only through the Lord's enabling work

FRONT COVER PHOTO BY:
Rev David Pol

that a man can faithfully bring the gospel message.

It's actually remarkable that this is Paul's principal prayer request. From Ephesians we learn that he's confined to a prison in Rome. So what would you expect him to pray for? Freedom, maybe. Perhaps a miraculous escape like in Philippi. But he doesn't have an eye on his own well-being. He asks for the opportunity—even in jail!—to tell more people about God's amazing love in Christ.

Paul's request teaches us to pray regularly for the preaching of the gospel, at home and on the mission field. Now, it's true that preaching always looks like a solo effort. It's just one man standing at the front, presenting the sermon that he worked on by himself in his study. But it's never an individual endeavour. Preaching requires many prayers to God, and not just the prayers of the preacher. For the task of preparing and delivering a message from God's Word simply cannot be done without his blessing.

For this work, there is so much that a preacher needs. He needs spiritual insight into the text to understand its main message. He needs clarity to think it through in a coherent way. And then there's the challenge of preaching in a language he might've learned much later in life! He wants to pick just the right words, with appropriate emphasis, and good timing. It's also surprisingly tiring to preach for half an hour or more, so he needs the blessing of good health and physical strength. And he should have the spirit of joy that's fitting for someone preaching the good news of

Christ. A missionary (or any preacher) needs boldness too. Bringing a message always evokes a reaction, so perhaps he wants to win the audience's approval or avoid their criticism. But he must be fearless and forthright in preaching the Word that God has set before him. So pray.

God has made the preaching of his Word crucial to the life and growth of the catholic church. You can be sure then, that Satan will target the preaching. He'll bring his attacks against the preacher, the missionary, and the evangelist. So pray that these men can resist the devil's myriad temptations: pride, laziness, sexual impurity, cynicism, and more. Pray for our missionaries' watchfulness and perseverance. Pray steadfastly, for no servant of God can endure unless the church is upholding him in prayer.

In short, the gospel will not advance except through the prayers of the saints. That is true locally, and it is true everywhere, whether in PNG or the Philippines or Indonesia or China. Pray that the true Word will be preached and also received in faith by many.

I often hear it said that the work of our missionaries feels very distant from us. Yet when we read the pieces in the Mission News or elsewhere, let's have an eye for how each of them stimulates us to prayer. Sometimes mention is made of specific prayer points. At other times, praying thoughtfully requires us to read between the lines. When we read about wonderful opportunities for the

gospel, or about Satan's opposition, or physical dangers, or new growth, we should be moved again to pray to the Lord of the church. In his power, our prayers can transcend any distance.

"Pray for me," Paul asked the Ephesians. Donald Carson¹ comments on this kind of prayer request, made regularly by Paul in his letters: "He wants his way to be smoothed so that he can get on with the next phase of outreach. He cares about the gospel; he is passionately committed to its extension. This is what drives his prayers. Is that what drives ours?"

Let us pray. Pray with diligence and with confidence because in our Lord Jesus we have a glorious Saviour and King! Pray for his gospel to advance in your own life, in your congregation, and in all the world.

Rev Reuben Bredenhof

FRC Mount Nasura

Footnote:

1. D.A. Carson, *Praying with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014), 198.

CHAIRMAN'S MUSINGS

This is the last edition of Mission News for 2021. Even though it appears everyone has a break and returns refreshed next year, the Mission News has no break. Every 2 months an email pops up to remind us that our submissions are due. Since Christmas falls between the two months, Mission News won't even know that there is a Christmas break. And in reality, that's the same with Mission work. Yes, some staff, especially on the Port Moresby side are looking forward to breaks or are on them already, but the Lae side (if we are playing sides) will continue their work. They had their breaks earlier this year. The only problem for them is that some of us on the Mission Board might not be so contactable (which is probably a nice thing for them). Not to worry; we will stay in contact with them in case they need us.

So, 2 months has passed since the last Mission News, and as I sit here and think about the past 2 months, the passing of Brother (student) Joe, comes to the forefront of my

mind. You no doubt have heard the story, so I won't repeat it. I do want to mention though, that this was a stark reminder that everything is in the Lords hands, and all goes according to His plan. It certainly wouldn't have been our plan to lose Brother Joe. He was about to be examined by Classis again, and possibly would have been the 6th national pastor. There were discussion about how he could serve the churches of PNG. But God had different plans. God decided that it was time for Joe to be able to live by sight and not by faith. It was with thankfulness that we can see this acceptance from the workers on the field, that indeed we can acknowledge that God is in control. It leaves a big hole and our thoughts go to Christine and her 5 children as they deal with this loss.

The Covid outbreak in PNG is quite bad. Probably an understatement. With less than 2% vaccination rate, any outbreak cannot be contained, even if they had a world class health system, which unfortunately they don't. Covid has also had an impact on the work and the workers. Thankfully when the workers in Lae contracted Covid, the impact was lessened and not as severe (due to them all being doubled vaccinated). However, they did limit their movements so that they were not the cause of any spread.

This meant a lockdown for them of sorts and staying in the compound, which included missing out on one Sunday of working in the churches. Thankfully, their health has returned, and the work continued. The other impact of Covid is that the planned move to Ukarumpa in October has been postponed to January at the earliest.

After the self-imposed lockdown, Pastor David had the privilege of peaching in Wantun for the first time. Pastor Ryan preached in Hila. We are very thankful that there are 2 missionaries on the field able to spread the workload.

In the past 2 months, the installation of Pastor David and Pastor Ryan was also held. Again, much has been reported, however I would like to say that this was one of the most memorable events I have ever witnessed. The shared service between the church of Lae and church of Southern River was such a blessing from God. The live streaming and sound worked perfectly, and way over in PNG, Pastor Ryan and Pastor David, could respond with, "I do" when Rev Poppe asked them the questions. Southern River as the new sending church was blessed to experience this and it strengthened the bond with the Mission church. It was also a blessing to hear how it was received also in PNG. Some didn't leave church till 3 in the morning....

The Board continues to do its work. Its busy with 3 families on the field, but we are overjoyed that this is the case, another blessing from God. The Board is currently working with the Supporting and Co-Operating churches with a proposal to assist the churches in Port Moresby. It is currently being termed, 'a holistic approach to PNG'. We ask for strength and wisdom whilst these discussions and decisions are being made. We commit these to Him. We know that all happens according to Gods plans.

The workers from RCBC and Lae will meet together for their annual conference. We truly appreciate the working relationship between all the workers and also the Mission Boards that support them.

God continues to bless the work and we ask you all to keep the work of Mission alive in your families, praying regularly as you support the work.

Prayer points:

- Pray for the believers in PNG so that they are strengthened by the Gospel, especially as the Covid outbreak affects many.
- Pray that God will be with all the Mission workers as they do their task with the people of PNG
- Pray that God will be the RCBC family, especially with the passing away of Brother Joe.
- Pray that we all keep Mission work alive in our families and church so that we can continue to support the spreading of Gods word.

Frank Janssen
Chairman Southern River Mission Board



Installation of Pastor David and Pastor Ryan



Installation Service in PNG

Lae, PNG

THE MISSION AND ME (II)

In the first article on this subject, we began to examine Matthew 28:19-20:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

We saw how missions is first of all the work of Christ and in the second place we saw disciples who are used as disciple makers. However, the Apostles themselves recognized that God himself gifted different people in different ways when it came to the task of disciple making. As that’s the case, involvement in disciple making looked different for every Christian.

Consider Ephesians 4:11.

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God...” (ESV)

We see several different roles in God’s kingdom work here. Some were specially called

and set aside by Christ Jesus himself to be Apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds (or pastors) and some were set aside to be teachers. Yet we also see “saints”, which is to say, those who have put their faith in Christ Jesus and have been made holy by his blood, who are to be *equipped for work of ministry*.

At this point you might be thinking: “Wait, me? Me as a mom, as a dad? As an older man or woman in the congregation? As an employer? How do I go about doing that?”

These are all very good questions to consider. So in light of that, let’s take another brief look at the definition of discipleship that we touched

down on last time: *“A disciple is one who responds to the call of Jesus in faith, resulting in a relationship of absolute allegiance and supreme loyalty through which Jesus shares his own life and the disciple embarks on a lifetime of learning to become like his Master.”* And as a clarification of what becoming like the Master meant we added to that: *“and seeks, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to draw others in obedience to him as well.”*

An ongoing process

The above quote is a beautiful expansion on Christ’s quote: *“Teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you”*. It highlights two realities that come with this command. First, that this command is a life-time process. It’s not as if you



become a disciple and then stop being disciplined. Disciple making is a process – as you are disciplining others, you had better be being disciplined yourself! Being disciplined does not just give you new material to disciple others, but it helps you tremendously as you personally walk along the road of sanctification.

Second, it shows that more may be considered discipleship that we might first have thought, both for church members on the mission front and church members on the home front. In fact, we *must* expand discipleship to encompass all of life and not just walking alongside a new believer until their profession of faith. There is more than just the role of the primary contact, the mission worker or minister to consider. Fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, teachers and friends all have a role in continued discipleship.

Let's take a further look at Matthew 28 to illustrate.

Matthew 28:

Having already addressed "Go" as a supporting word to the command to "make disciples" in the last article, let us now look ahead to the other commands we see here in Matthew 28.

"baptizing"

Again a supporting word. This is

the natural outcome of those who are made into disciples. They are brought into a covenant relationship with God when they believe in Jesus Christ and have his mark placed on them. The mark of baptism shows to whom they belong and sets them apart as citizens of the kingdom of heaven. However, the task does not stop here, with baptism and profession of faith.

"Teaching them to obey"

Once you've been set apart as a citizen of a kingdom of heaven, you need to know how to live as a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.

"All that I have commanded you"

As we noted before, this doesn't just involve being a disciple, but also becoming a **disciple maker**. Again, as we saw in Ephesians 4 above, different people are given different capacities and abilities in this process, but all of us are involved in one way or another. Apostles are not evangelists, who are not pastors, who are not teachers. All have their different roles, as do *all the saints who are equipped for good works*.

But what can those other saints teach? In Paul's letter to the young pastor Titus, Paul teaches Titus how he is to train

How does one receive preaches and workers? Jesus' answer is simple: ask the Lord for them!

the saints to disciple others:

*Titus 2:1-10 "But as for you (Titus), speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: ² that the **older men** be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; ³ the **older women** likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, **teachers of good things**—⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.*

*⁶ Likewise, exhort the **young men to be sober-minded**, ⁷ in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, ⁸ sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.*

*⁹ Exhort **bondservants** to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things,*

not answering back, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things." (Even slaves! Having nothing else, they are teaching by their lives that the gospel makes a difference even for slaves)

We must be aware that all who are mature in the faith can and are called to play a role in discipling, while all who are not are called to seek that discipleship out, that they too can be brought to a place where they can play a role in this great kingdom work.

Those who are in a position of influence or teaching are to teach those who look up to them about how to live in every sphere of life, so that they, in turn, can teach others once they have reached a certain level of maturity.

What can I do?

Yes, not everyone has the role to be a mentor, a pastor or a teacher. Yet parents can teach their children. Older men can set an example for younger. Older women can teach the younger. Young men can set examples

for their peers in word and in life. Christian bosses and foremen mentor their general laborers simply by their attitude and speech on the job-site. In all, almost everyone will eventually reach a place in life where they will be able to disciple others, as they themselves were disciplined. As that is the case, our aim and desire should be to promote the work of disciple-making wherever we can and may. In addition, we can encourage the less spiritually mature to set their hearts on becoming disciple makers that they may make much of Christ wherever they can.

Such disciple making work is not something "other"

which only the ordained do, but it is simply a part of everyday life. By God's grace and in the power of his Spirit, each of us might be able to humbly say with the apostle Paul:

1 Cor 11:1 "*Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*"

Seeking discipleship or seeking to disciple and teach how we can obey Christ in small ways in every area of life should be (and should be encouraged to be viewed as) the most normal thing in the world in the Christian life.

The continued walking in obedience and constant growth is a task we find the Apostle Paul calling his planted churches to (even



THE MISSION AND ME (II - continued)



though they don't use the word "disciple" or "discipling" – but teaching obedience in love. That is, however, the essence of discipling!).

Each of us at home can do this. Even more, each of us that is in the field ought to be calling our existing congregation members, who have been called out of the world, to do the same. These new converts, too, need to remember that they are not finished yet. As we read in Phil 3:13-15,

"¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you."

How we can carry out our mission

Can we do the great work which Christ has called us to be obedient to in our own strength? Of course not. For this reason, Christ has given us yet another promise, found in Matthew 28, right alongside our commission: "*you [will be] clothed with power from on high.*" More than that, we are promised by Christ himself: "*I will be with you until the end of the age.*"

These two promises of Matthew 28 give us great comfort. They give comfort because we don't have to worry that we are up to the task. We don't have to be perfect, or know it all, we just need to be able to point others to the one who is perfect and all knowing. We don't have to be the Christ. We are simply called to be the disciples of Christ, teaching others to likewise be disciples of Christ.

Pastor David Pol
2021



COLLEGE CORNER



Joe Pinauga
25.4.1975 – 26.10.2021

It was going to happen sooner or later, we just weren't prepared for the devastating consequences. Our RCBC 'family' got hit with COVID-19 and many became very sick, and one student was not able to recover. In His wisdom, our LORD and Father called home his child, Joe Pinauga. Joe's death meant glory for him, but it left a gaping hole here on earth.

Joe was married to Christine and they had 5 children. In our eyes, he still had much work to do, not only in supporting his family but also in the Reformed Churches of PNG. With just 1 year of study left, we were already thinking how Joe could be best used as a pastor. We were excited at the potential and felt that this was just what the RCPNG needed. God had other plans and we know that they are better, even if we can't understand it.

Christine and the children will surely feel Joe's loss. With no social security, and with Joe being the 'bread winner', the family will need to draw on support from other family members. We hope and pray that this may eventuate.

The students, too, are feeling Joe's absence. As a senior

student he often gave excellent advice to the younger students, and was also an excellent liaison with the staff. Joe's fellow diploma class mates made a touching tribute for Joe, by cleaning his desk and place a beautiful arrangement of flowers on it.

As staff we have spent some time sharing with the students the comfort we can draw from God's Word. This society focuses so much on the body and much wailing happens to show that you really loved the person. It was good to remind all that, though grieving is ok, we do not grieve without hope. Joe is alive with his creator, at peace, and where he, along with us, wants to be.

Most students who became sick have now recovered from coronavirus, and it is so good to see them walk with a 'spring' in their step again. Pastor Hans and his wife Lisa were also affected by the virus; Lisa got typhoid on top of it! They were both seriously unwell and we thank God that he has given them recovery. There is still a bit to go, but they are out of the danger zone.

It has been an intense time and through it, God has sustained

us and blessed us. The student body responded very well and are as cohesive as they've ever been. The international reformed community has reached out to Christine and to the RCBC with prayer and donations. When I shared some of the email with the students, they were awed by the realisation that there is a community overseas thinking of them. It was a real special 'wow' moment.

Life does go on and right now we are getting ready for the graduation ceremony of our certificate students and diploma students. These are always big events and I sure hope that we've covered all of the bases.

Please do pray for our RCBC 'family' and for the Reformed Churches in PNG. It's a community which is confronted with so many challenges and it needs prayerful support. Pray for men to become members so that they can take up leadership positions. Pray for our national pastors that they may remain strong. Pray for the RCBC, that it may train many individuals to take up works of service in the churches. Pray for those who are grieving, especially Christine and her family. Pray that they may receive strength and comfort from the Word.

Thank you for your prayers.
Thank you for your support.

In Christ alone,

Mark Mulder



The Church

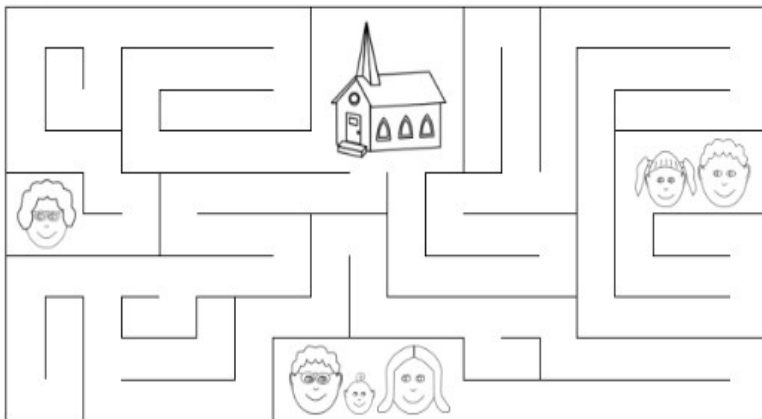


Jesus told Peter that "I will build my church", in Matthew 16:18. We know that **Jesus** is the Head of the Church. When we are a Christian, we are a part of the Church. Jesus builds His church from all around the world!

Church Buildings

Some churches meet in houses, schools, or other places, but most churches meet in church buildings.

Draw a path for each family to get to the church building.



Think about your Church...

What is the name of your church?

Who is the pastor or minister of your church?

Who are some of the people in your church?

What do you do when your church meets together?



The Early Church

After Jesus went back to heaven, Paul and other Christians travelled around, telling people about Jesus and starting local churches in the towns they visited. A local church is a group of Christians that live in the same area and meet together to worship and do God's work.

Look up the verses in your Bible & read them. Then use the following words to fill in the blanks:

leaders **meet** **money**
prayed **visited**

Ephesians 1:16 - Paul _____
for the churches he had started.

Acts 15:36 - Paul went back and _____
the churches he had started.

Hebrews 10:25 - Don't forget to _____
together as a church.

1 Corinthians 16:2 - Give an offering of _____
each Sunday.

Acts 14:23 - Each church had church _____.



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

As the last issue of Mission News was rather “skinny”, partly due to us not having anything to share with you, I thought it would be a good idea to fatten up this issue somewhat with recent news from Indonesian mission projects. Unfortunately, the effects of Cyclone Seroja are still being felt, and communications are still heavily impacted. Correspondence and information from the mission posts has been rather scarce of late. Thankfully, we have received 2 reports, 1 from Rev Balla Rihi who travelled to mission posts in Bali & Java on behalf of the church at Kataka, and a report from evangelist Melkianus at Watubara, which is a mission post of the church at Padiratana. I have taken the liberty to condense the reports slightly and include the pertinent information only, else this article would stretch to nearly 9 pages!

As mentioned previously, rev Balla has been appointed as Missionary minister by the church at Kataka, and part of his responsibility is to visit outlying mission posts and provide a report for his consistory. As most of these posts in Bali & Java are also supported by the Rockingham & Baldivis congregations, he has also forwarded his report to us, which we now include for your information:

Report of visits of Rev. Balla Rihi Meha to the PI Malang post, PI dampit post, PI Solo post and PI Bali post

Praise and thanks be to our Triune God who has allowed me to be able to perform visiting duties on several Mission posts on the island of Java & Bali as mentioned below. All of this was be done with the prayerful support of all of my colleagues in Sumba, as well as the support from the Indonesian Mission Committee. As a mission minister, I was especially grateful to the Rockingham and Baldivis mission

committee who supported my travel expenses to visit every Mission post that was outside Sumba.

Accompanying me on this trip was br Michael Nggaba Panjang, due to begin his duties as evangelist at the Mission post of Dampit in place of Evangelist Jekson who had asked to be relieved from his call. Because of this setback, the consistory had no choice but to fill the ongoing vacancy at the Dampit post, because not having a worker there would pose a significant risk to the spiritual wellbeing and development of the congregation at the Dampit. A second reason was to ease the workload of Rev Yanto, so that he was not required to travel every week to Dampit. Brother Michael has already worked on a practical assignment at another mission post for one

year. Below I will give a breakdown of my recent trip.

04 September 2021: Waingapu-Kupang

On September 03, 2021 I was with br Michael conducting a rapid antigen test in a doctor's surgery in Waingapu, and having received a negative test result we were able to travel to Kupang departing on September 04, 2021. (Sumba does not have proper Covid testing facilities so a rapid antigen test is required to be able to travel to Kupang in Timor, for a proper test that would allow them to fly east to Java). We stayed at the home of Rev Lele Raga Lawa (the grandfather of my wife) for three nights while we looked for a place to test PCR.(Covid testing)

On Saturday afternoon after we got to Rev Lele Raga Lawa's house, ordered a taxi to go check a place for a PCR test.

But nothing came of it because all the bookings for that day were already taken.

Then Sunday morning brother Michael and I joined Rev Lele Raga Lawa and his wife for worship at GGRI Kupang. When we left the church, we went back to the testing Clinic at Kupang Airport, but it was too crowded up there, and we were directed by officers to go to a branch of the main clinic, and thank God that we got accepted up there and had our tests. We were still waiting for the results at noon on Monday, September 06, 2021. Thank God the results of the PCR test for us were negative, and we then were able to purchase plane tickets to Malang for September 07, 2021.

07 September 2021: Kupang-Surabaya-Malang

We were able to travel from Kupang to Surabaya on the 7th. But every at airport we pass there is a constant checking of identification and Covid status (both arriving and departing), so let's just say during the covid-19 pandemic travel is extremely difficult

And after we got to Surabaya-Juanda Airport, we rented a car to go to Malang. And at exactly 5

o'clock we arrived at pastor Yanto Matalu's house.

I also need to convey the situation in Malang;

1. The size of the Malang worship group is very small, with most of the members no longer attending due to age, ill health, or having moved away. Often it is just the minister holding services for his own family only
2. The preaching duties for Malang & Dampit were being shared with Ev. Yan Domu Marahongu M.Th. while studying for his Master of Theology in Malang. He also helped with preaching duties while Rev Yanto was hospitalized for his heart condition. But when Mr. Yan Domu had finished his study, and the congregation grew smaller he no longer helps Reverend Yanto serve at his post.
3. There was one thing that minister Yanto asked, and we had discussed and agreed at last August's visit about receiving a car rental allowance for him to be able to travel between mission posts to oversee the work done, as he is the only ordained minister in Java.

09 September 2021: Malang- Dampit-Malang

On Thursday on September 9, we travelled to the Mission Post at Dampit together with reverend Yanto and Mr. Firman. While brother Michael and Yan Domu, they took their motorbikes to Dampit. When we got to the Dampit, we couldn't see Mr. Sukram and his wife because Mr. Sukram had contracted covid-19. We travelled back to the city of Dampit to purchase supplies and kitchen items required for brother Michael in setting up for his work at the mission post.

Around 5:00 p.m., we went back to Malang to pastor's Yanot's house. Br Michael came home with him because there were still a few things he had left to buy, and on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, brother Michael went back to the Dampit with Mr. Yan Domu.



Map of Central Java. Dampit is located on Mt Bromo near Malang

Also need I inform that;

1. The congregation at the Dampit post remains the same, being the Sukram Family.
2. Also, the worship is not regular, because of covid-19 restrictions.
3. Before br Michael arrived Rev Yanto and Mr. Yan Domu took turns preaching at the post in Dampit.
4. The kitchen at Dampit was specially prepared by Mr. Sucramp with reverend Yanto and Mr. Yan domu last August.
5. The salary we will give to Br Michael, besides electricity and water is \$1,000,000 a month.

10 September 2021: Malang-Solo

Friday afternoon, I was picked up from Malang by Mr. Tanto to go to Solo. And arrived at solo at 4:45 p.m and after a short rest, Ev. Endro took me to visit one of the congregation's members of the Solo post where we held a short worship service. At this event, there were about 20 or more people present. The small number was because of the restrictions in place due to covid-19.



On Saturday morning about 7:00 a.m., brother Endro, Mr. Tanto Budy, one of the brethren of the assembly in Solo and Mr. Sri, we went to the new church building site

Sunday morning I conducted worship and held Lord's Supper with the congregation. Those present numbered around 30 members. Under normal circumstances without Covid, this number would be around 40 people

- * One thing that is proposed to GGRI Kataka Kataka council is a request for funds to the donor (the Rockingham and Baldivis Mission Committee) of \$50 million to progress further with the new church building, which has been supported by locals thus far.

May I also point out that the opportunity to expand rapidly at Solo is very real if there is already building a church for

worship, because evangelizing there is not difficult. There are no radical or violent Islamists in the area.

14 September 2021: Solo-Bali

On September 14 I left Solo and visited Bali. And praise God, I found Rev Yan Praliaminya and his family in good health. On the 15th in the evening, we had a meeting with leaders of the Bali post. Of the 3 only the Rev. Yan and elder Kornelis were present.

Our goal was to discuss some things related to the Bali post namely;

1. During the pandemic covid-19, many congregation members had returned to Sumba because the Balinese jobs had disappeared due to lack of tourists.
2. At the time of my visit, the congregation attendance was an average of 15-20 members.
3. A request from the Bali Post to either purchase land measuring 60 feet by 40 feet [20 m by 15 m] for a new church building, or investigate

a long term lease agreement for (5 years or 10 years).

4. This proposal has been discussed at last August's consistory meeting at Laihobu and it was agreed that the proposal be prepared and forwarded to the Mission Committee

16 September 2021: Bali-Waingapu

On the 16th after making farewells to Rev Yan & his family, I returned to Sumba and was reunited with my wife in good health. All of these visits could only happen with the Lord's blessing, and the of the prayer prayerful support of the Kataka consistory and congregations. I am also very thankful for the support & prayers from our brothers and sisters in FRCA Rockingham and FRCA Baldivis

May our Triune God always bless the congregations of Rockingham and Baldivis, and bless all members of the Mission Committee.

Greetings from me

(Rev. Balla Rihi Meha)

Note: the mission post at Solo in Java is mostly self-supporting. Mission Aid has recently supported them with \$5000 to assist in their new church building project.

WEDDINGS

Tanambanas.

North West Sumba

It must be spring in Sumba (if there is such a thing) as romance has blossomed for 2 of our evangelists. Rev Markus from Tanambanas has recently gotten himself married. The timing was not perfect on his part, as for the next 3 months he is furthering his Theological studies in Java (with overseas support). Rather than beginning his married life being separated from his beloved for 3 months, as a wedding gift to them, we have enabled his wife to travel to Java to be with him during his course of study. It is likely that in the future, he will be utilized at the Theological Seminary in Waimarung.

Watubara (south Sumba)

Evangelist Melkianus from the mission post at Watubara also succumbed to the call of the wedding bells, and was married to his bride on 31st October. Under normal circumstances we would have loved to be present, but a small monetary gift on our behalf was well received, and to all reports helped make this day special for both of them. As is customary in Sumba, the wedding was held on a Sunday between services and the whole community joined in the celebration. We pray that God bestows his blessing on both these young couples as they carry out their task in their respective mission posts.

Rev Markus and his princess bride



Ev. Melkianus with wife (on left) and sister



Youth Congress at Padiratana



A report was received from Evangelist Melkianus concerning his recent work and is included below:

Date	Location	Text & Theme	Members Present
Sunday, 13 June 2021 Rev Ferdinand	Combined worship service for Holy Supper at Padiratana	Text: Acts. 2:41-47 theme: Development of early Christian based on: 1.Devoted to Apostles's teaching 2. There's beautiful fellowships 3.Conduct Holy Supper	115
Sunday, 20 June 2021	Post Watubara and Watupatah	Text: Revelation 13;1-18 theme: Number 666 is an interpretation of human rebellion to God	12
Sunday, 27 June 2021	Post Watubara and Watupatah	Text: Phil. 3:12-16 theme: we demand to run to get Heavenly Call	15
Sunday, 4 July 2021	Post Watubara and Watupatah	Phil. 4:1-9. theme: Lesson learned from Paul's life principles	13
Sunday, 11 July 2021	Post Watubara	Jer. 7:21-28 theme: Listen to My Voice, you shall be My People	16
Sunday, 18 July 2021	Post Watubara	James. 2:14-26 Faith without works is Dead	10
Sunday, 25 July 2021	Post Watubara	Hebrew. 10: 19-39 theme: Let us not neglect from meeting together	13
Sunday, 1 August 2021	Post Watubara and post Kapehu	Psalms 119:9-16 Theme: The Youth can keep their Godly behaviour by holding tight to God's words	16
Sunday, 8 August 2021	Padiratana Church	Phil. 3 :17-21 Theme: Lesson learned from Paul's obedience	45
Sunday, 15 August 2021 Rev Ferdinand	Pulpit exchange service at Watapatuh Branch	Jer. 18:1-17 Theme: God renew Israelites who become His People	30
Sunday, 22 August 2021	Post Watubara	Phil. 2:12-18 Theme: Do everything without grumbling	21
Sunday, 29 August 2021	Post misi Watubara	Exo. 40:34-38 Theme: The Glory of God dwells amongst His People.	

Report of activities by Evangelist Melkianus at the mission post at Watubara and branch Watupatah during the months June to August 2021

So far the report of preaching each week, I also lead fellowship groups to study the bible at the homes of the congregation members of the GGRI Padiratana and the mission posts. This happens when there is a funeral and then I can go to give words of comfort, or when there are times of rejoicing (Could be a birth or a birthday) then we have a thanksgiving service. At the moment each Saturday I lead a youth service/ study. Sunday afternoons at 4pm I also teach a Catechism class. Or if any of the members of the congregation a sick I visit them together with another member of the congregation.

At present at the mission post at Watubara we have 1 new family worshipping with us, and we have a few people who at present are meeting with us. Thus far the report of my activities as evangelist, so that you are aware of what is happening on the mission field at Watubara. The congregation members of Watubara also want to pass on their warm greetings to your congregations in Australia

Melkianus K. Tara Amah S,Th.

In other news there has been good progress in church building work at the mission posts of Lae Wunga, Laingadda and Solo but more about that next time...

Eric de Haan
*On behalf of Mission
Indonesia*

Birthday Corner

December

Mrs Erika Pol
1/12/1996

Zachary deJonge
5/12/2012

Makenna van der Wal
9/12/2017

Mrs Merinda van der Kamp
17/12/1991

Benjamin Kleijn
19/12/2009

January

Mr Ben van der Kamp
14/01/1992

Graeme van der Kamp
20/01/2020

February

James deJonge
13/02/2021



CHILDREN OF LIGHT (COL)

Mission Clothing Packages

The sending of Mission Clothing Packages started already many decades ago, with early Mission Aid work in Sumba, Timor, Papua West, and Papua New Guinea. It has continued intermittently over the years, to whomever can be responsible for dealing with and distributing the contents in the receiving country. Clothes are received free, from a second hand shop in Albany, but any additional items such as bags, milk powder, medical supplements etc, are donated or purchased. Mrs Paula Plug has been a key coordinator and worker on this mission aid support project over the years, and her backyard garage was fairly well devoted to this activity, plus much of her time and energy. A number of other women have been very supportive of this in Albany too. Communication has been difficult in the past. In developing country areas, internet and telephone services are not the same as in Australia. Few people on the committee in Albany used email much, and my use of email was hampered by limited internet services. The recent rollout of *Indihome* in Waingapu in Sumba, just in the past 12 months, has led to better internet services, making it easier to use Whatsapp. Thankfully now I can communicate via Whatsapp to the Albany ladies to let them

know when a package comes, what arrived, and how the contents are distributed, take photos and express thanks and the sincere thankfulness of so many people here for receiving health support, clothing, milk powder, vitamins, etc, much of which is now distributed to various churches via teachers and students from different villages at the Reformed Senior High School.

We are in a Covid battle at the moment. The people that I help mainly need Vitamin D 5,000 IU as well as fish oil to help absorb it. I encourage the people to sit in the sun for half an hour every day to absorb Vitamin D in the skin. It is very hard if they are very sick. We have about 1 person in every 100 with Covid-like symptoms, Delta variant, and low vaccination rates of maybe about 10 percent. I have had two Sinovac Coronavac vaccines, but it does not prevent Covid infection, it just reduces the severity if you do get it. I still need to double mask and limit going out. I have been helping to treat people at home and at the Reformed Senior High School, to keep them out of hospital if possible, DV.

A middle-aged woman came to visit two days ago. She had fainted over the weekend and kept getting dizzy spells. I checked her blood pressure with the monitor that the Albany Support Group sent about 2



2021.07.25.17.29



2021.07.02.06.56



Two Sunday shirts for two students from the Reformed SHS.

2021.07.02.06.56

years ago or more. It is still working well with new batteries! She had walked 15 minutes to come and see me. Her blood pressure was quite low, also with a repeat measurement sometime later. I have no multivitamins left anymore from Albany, as the need is high here, especially for pregnant women. I always keep a strip or two of bought multivitamins ready in my medicine cupboard for emergencies. One strip consists of 10 multivitamin tablets, called Corovit. She was advised to take one every day with lunch and drink more water. 10 multivitamins for 10 days costs RP 15,000 or an equivalent of \$1.50 AUS.

Here I normally keep little pots and bottles and divide multivitamins from large pots into smaller pots to give to people that will last them one month or so. Each pot contains 30-40 tablets. My supplies of the multivitamins and iron tablets from Albany are finished. I hope and pray that whatever you are able to send will get through the post, without being confiscated. There is no fish oil available here, and no Vitamin D. Oil and fats help to absorb Vitamin D, so I often provide a small bottle of fish oil together with Vitamin D, if I can.

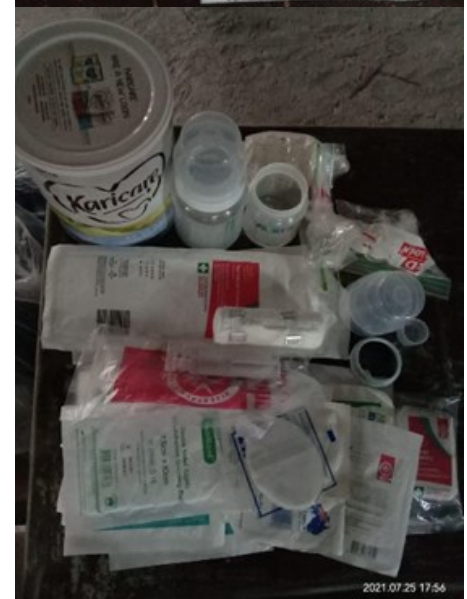
We received a package from Albany today, 1st September. We are required to pay RP 190,000 or about \$19 AUS. \$17 is for Import tax, and \$2 for postal delivery in Sumba. I normally unpack, sort out, fold and set out all the clothes and other items in groups. I then look at the requests for support and prepare packages in bags for various families. After that, I share out the remaining items across a few churches and locations and family groups. The remainder items from this package went to the families of teachers at the Reformed Senior High School.

Again, we thank all of you sincerely for your help and support, and pray for the Lord's blessings on this aid work, sorting, packaging, transport, organizing and distribution of aid support. It is a big effort and takes so much time and commitment. May our Heavenly Father bless this effort in helping people in Sumba, and especially in the Reformed churches.

With sincere thankfulness, regards, and may the Lord bless you,

**Isabel Pakereng
(nee Postmus)**

September 2021



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Web: www.frcmissionpng.org

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

Mission Philippines—FRC Baldivis

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

Members

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

Article submission address: plugd@jcs.tas.edu.au

Mission Indonesia

Sending Church: Rockingham

Supporting Church: Baldivis

Chairman (contact): Br E DeHaan (FRC Rockingham)
eric@zenecon.net.au

Vice-Chairman: Br B Bosveld (FRC Baldivis)

Treasurer: Br B Bosveld (FRC Baldivis)

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

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