

July 11 2017

Dear Sumba Mission friends

“The Lord is good and doeth good” (Psalm 119:68)

Again and again we may experience this truth and need to remember this each day as we certainly do not deserve this. Then too where would we be if the Lord gave us what we deserve.

This time we will write something about the children and where they are studying.

Essa is now doing his practical and preaching for 4 months in a village about an hour drive from here. In October he will return to Calvin collage in Bali to finish his study. We loaned him a motorbike so he can visit us from time to time.

Seven students: Samuel, Yehezkiel, Esto, and Jeffri are returning to Java for their second year in the technical school. Amos, Eston and Iwan left yesterday for the same school. They had to travel over Kupang from there to Jakarta and the remainder 2 ½ hour journey by bus. This route was so much cheaper than directly to Bali and Java. It was so nice to have everyone home for the holidays.

Some of the costs of these students is covered through acquaintances from Christina, but boarding and traveling expenses are for us.

Two students, Elsi and Opi left to study in Kupang, Timor. Elsi is studying for Doctor and Opi for teacher. They are able to board by family from Yandrus. Opi was home sick at first, but doing okay now.

Elsi's study is paid for by our governor.

Candre is a very smart boy, but because of his difficult character is boarding with someone private in Waikabubk. Candre is a very talented and artistic boy. He likes it where he is and is doing much better.

Eldi, our deaf student is still attending a school for the deaf in Waikabubak, this is his last year, then we will have to figure out what his future will be and what he can do.

Then there are the students who will be attending high school in Waingapu, Jonni, Norce, Chrissy, Vivi, Esther, Elli, Topan, Alfons, Sarah, Yuyun and Yafet. We were grateful that we could place all these children in high school, because not all children on the island get a chance to go to high school; there are not enough high schools and teachers. Our children are divided over 3 high schools. Alfons and Topan are placed close to the house in Waingapu. Alfons is a heart patient and cannot take the crowded and noisy busses. It took a lot of organizing for Christine with the help of Wiwik and Justiana to get them all placed, but in another week they should all be settled in their new schools. It also will be a lot of continued care to keep it working well.

Christina is not doing well and is gone to Jakarta for a check-up. She found a lump in her breast, many in her family had breast cancer and of course we are worried for her. Humanly speaking, we cannot miss her for she is the backbone of our mission.

We have 2 visitors from Grand Rapids at present and are a big help with entertaining the children and giving piano lessons. They are leaving for home on Monday July 17. The Lord willing.

Nine new students will come to grade one in our own school from the surrounding area. We do receive government support for these students. Our school has become partly a government school so we can work together. Some of the staff also gets paid by the government.

Alpons needs regular visits to the hospital for his heart valve implant. Little Brian needs 2 or 3 more operations on his mouth, especially re construction of his jaw in order for his teeth to grow straight. These operations are done for free by another organisation in Bali.

We heartily thank you all for your continued support; please continue to pray for us. Greetings from all of us here

Some shots of their last days before leaving for their respective schools

