

September 2017

Dear Sumba Mission Friends

This will be a short newsletter; Bill is still in the hospital with Amoeba (bloody dysentery) He is doing a bit better now, but still on IV and feeling weak.

It is all very difficult to be so far away from home, especially now after I received the news that our granddaughter Danielle had such a bad accident. She is unconscious and on life support. There is much prayer for her, that the Lord may still be gracious to her soul and spare her life.

Through God's grace and long suffering we all have been spared from death. The father of Samuel, one of our first children, passed away. Samuel would go and see him when he was home from his school in Java. His father had been ill for quite some time already. He never used to attend church, but they said that lately he did go to the little bamboo church we build in 2005. We used to have regular church services there, but now the elders take turns speaking a word. The last time we went to visit his father in August many of his extended family came to see him, which was nice for Samuel.

The students in Waingapu are doing well they have adjusted to their new classes. Elsi and Opi started school in the neighbouring island of Kupang and are doing well too.

Essa started preaching in different churches here in Sumba; last Sunday he preached here in TanaMbanas and he was well received. In January he will have to go back to the seminary in Bali to finish his study.

There are several children ill with Hepatitis A, which is worrisome as it is very contagious. It is difficult to keep the children separated. Their utensils have to be sterilized after each use and so on. Later this week the doctor will come to the home and see how many are ill.

Elissa Vander Boon is still here, helping with the children and teaching English in the home.

The government is becoming stricter, the police keeps checking on me asking what I am doing here. Christine had to go to Waikabubak (4 hour drive) to fill out and sign papers again.

Hopefully I will be well enough to travel in few weeks' time to return to Canada all the Lord willing.

We thank you for your continued support and prayer.



Bill Sommer and staff

