

Greetings from Tanambanas

Dear friends, we are delighted to meet you all again at the end of this beautiful and blessed month of April. We are very thankful to God because all the activities at school, the Mission Post, and the children's home are going well. Most of the teachers and staff are doing a good job. The teachers are quite busy now, preparing the final test for grades 6 and 9, as well as semester exams for other grades. In the meantime, we are busy with the mission post and 'big Project' in the garden. The price of groceries has been expensive, so we have decided to expand the size of our garden to increase our vegetable production. This is possible since all our pigs have died from the SHF virus. The kids help in the garden, and they are enjoying it. This allows the 'Ibu' to have quality time with the children in their. The Mission Post is going well. We were happy to be able to tell the children about the meaning of Good Friday and Passover.

The flowers and plants are looking very green and nice here because we have received some rain in the middle of the month.. We pray for some more rain so our garden can continue to grow, and we can have more produce from the garden. Due to the rain, our pets, cows, and horses are also easier to feed, because there is still plenty of green grass. At the end of this month, the plan is to restart raising chickens. For quite a while, we were unable to buy chicks; however, this is no longer the case. We have cleaned the chicken cage and have space for about 100 chickens.

For the most part, this month, the weather has been good. We see more of the sun, but the afternoons and evenings are still quite cool. Many of the children have coughs, colds or even a fever. We have been able to cope with this as most only have a fever for one to two days and then feel better and are back to their regular activities. Mami still gives the children and Ibu's vitamins daily. We are hoping this is primarily due to the changing weather. We are also aware of dengue fever and have done fogging around the house and school to get rid of the mosquitoes. The children are encouraged to make sure they keep the bathroom and water bucket in their rooms clean.

Two of our teachers need special prayer for this month. Both Norce and Alen have cysts. Norce had a biopsy last week and will receive the result this Saturday. There is a possibility she will need an operation to have it removed. The result will depend on where the operation can take place. A serious result will require a more complex surgery to take place in either Bali or Kupang. A not-so-serious result, she can have it here in Sumba. Alen is currently on medication, and so far, that's working.

Groceries have had a significant increase and have become difficult to get. Mami has brought lots of rice for the month to prepare our food supply. The garden, which we are growing and plan to expand further to include veggies, tomatoes, chillies, as well as some fruit.

The boy's dormitory is coming along well. It is almost ready for the boys to move in; we are just doing the last finishing touches. The boys have been busy with cleaning the building and caring for the garden while waiting. We want the building to be complete before they move in.

This month, one of our staff members, Irpon, left us to continue studying. She was working with the toddlers. We wish her the best and pray God to help and bless her in her studies. However, this creates extra work for some of the others, as we were already short-staffed, and now we are another staff member short. We pray that God may send us staff who have a love for the work and a willing heart to help us.

This year, three of the students are finishing high school. The current plan is that they will help out in the home for 1 year while they figure out what is God's plan for their future. The current plan at this time is for Meli and Gary to go to college this year. Gary graduated two years ago from high school and tried the entrance test for police school twice, but failed both times. Meli graduated from high school last year. May God bless them in their studies to perform well, finish and find what they are called to do.

We were sad to hear Opa Sommer had an accident last month, but thankful his life was spared.. We are praying for Opa and that God will bless and strengthen Opa and Mrs. Sommer also during this time.

We would like to thank Sumba Mission Canada for helping to finish their payment for the workmen and other expenses related to the boys' dorm. We also thank SDF for helping us to supply the chairs in our two mission post churches. We thank Sumba Mission Netherlands for your support. We thank all friends who continuously pray and support us. We are so amazed at how God works through you, so we are able to continue this work here. We pray that God bless you all and this work, and that God be glorified and be known among these people.

This is all about us for this month. Again, we thank you for all your support and prayers. We pray that God will continue to bless you all.

