

Dear Sumba Friends

I am grateful to be back in Sumba. I had a long trip both to Canada and Penang for my medical check up. On my flight back from Canada I missed my flight from Seoul to Denpasar, because we left Toronto late, but Korean Air provided hotel accommodations and a meal before flying to Bali the following day. Yanrus got to Bali the day before I arrived. We planned to go together to Penang (Malaysia) for my medical check up. Medicine and hospital costs in Penang are cheaper than Indonesia, and tests are done quicker. We would be required to fly from Sumba to receive medical care in Jakarta. This flight cost is the same as the flight to Penang. The report I received was a positive one, of the two lumps on my neck one has disappeared and the other is very small. I have received confirmation that these were not cancer. My back pain I was suggested to not do any heavy lifting. My right hand pain I will need some physiotherapy. Three years ago I had a lumbar disc replacement, this replaced two of my spinal cushions. Last year the doctor found out again there is probably another one which needs replacement. I am grateful the activities of the home are slowing down somewhat, this will help me slow down and follow the doctor's orders. The past five months have been very busy with the government grants to build on the school and the paperwork and pressures, this has been relieved and I already feel better.

January 30th I returned to Sumba, this means I was gone for almost one month. I found out that chicken pox was in the village and home when I returned. Many children come to the home for treatment, we give them a place to rest and good meals and they recover in about one week. Some of the village children are still in the home. It is also the last week of school, and now we have a one week holiday, so all the children can have a good rest while on the break. While I was in Canada the school and daily activities ran well. We were able to contact each other and discussed daily what was going on at the school, mission posts, and the home.

At the end of January Opa Pennings, Mrs, Ina, and Daniel arrived for 5 weeks. As usual Opa Pennings does the leadership training with the teachers and staff, devotions on Monday and Saturday in the school, and after supper each day, and catechism every Wednesday and Sunday. Mrs. Ina holds extra English classes for the kids.

In the beginning of February, Uncle Tony Krenendok and Oma Margo also visited us, unfortunately their flight was canceled so they only were able to spend one day with us. We had a pleasant visit and showed them around the home and school, and had lunch with the girls and the staff. We were able to show them one of the mission posts, a teacher's house, and the house of one of the students. We hope this short visit can give a big picture of what we are doing here. It is nice to have visitors come and see what we do here since we no longer get many visitors since COVID.

So far this rainy season we have had enough rain to fill all our cisterns. We can now freely enjoy water, we hope that there is still another two months of rain. Currently our garden is doing well, the Papaya trees which we planted last month are growing well, and we have had a few banana harvests. Every afternoon the children are busy in the garden making a fence, to prevent the goats from coming in. This month we can have chickens again, last November due to weather we were unable to get any chicks, as they get brought to Sumba by ship from Java.

Please hold us up in prayer as we continue to look for more staff in the kitchen. Currently we only have 3 kitchen staff to cook and bake for the entire home and school. The children are required to help out in the morning before school and the afternoon after school. However, since we provide breakfast, lunch, and supper for the home and a meal for the school children (drinks, bread, porridge, and snacks), additional help is needed. We provide a meal for all school children as many do not receive breakfast and some may not even get supper. We have had students faint at school due to hunger, which is why a meal is now provided. Unfortunately, when a student is hungry they are unable to learn well, despite how well we have prepped and taught a school lesson. We are trusting God will provide everything we need for the mission. We appreciate all who continuously support us and pray for us to do this work. Sometimes God does let us walk through a bumpy and narrow road and it seems there is no end in sight. At the same time sometimes God provides surprises that bring only tears of happiness and relief, unable to say anything.

With the new month ahead of us we are ready for the next extraordinary journey. I want to leave you with a quote from Isaiah 41:10' ***Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am the Lord your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous hand.***” When I read this verse, I feel that God is saying to me He sees our challenges and is already working on them. He is by our side so I have to let go of my stress and worries and put my trust in Him alone. I know God has a great journey ahead for us to fulfill His purpose. God is good and does good. We must have faith even when the road is hard and the way is cloudy and dark. May God bless us all with strength when we feel weak, with comfort when life is overwhelming.

Greetings from all of us

Christine

the boys are making the fence



Devotion by the school



finally we have our chicken



One of the student's project



another garden



the students do their homework



Grade 2: computer lesson



Extra English Lesson

