

Dear Sumba Mission Friends,

We hope all is well and going smoothly where you are. We are grateful for God's blessings as we enter the year 2026. Our school semester starts at the beginning of January, and we have started a new semester and year. To mark the beginning of this year, we did this through a tree-planting program with the parents of the students. This month also began with heavy hearts as we received the sad news that Opa Sommer had passed away. We felt the deep loss also, both at the home and in this village. We do, however, remember everything which Opa taught us about life and God, and our priority is remembering that God remains with us in Sumba.

Mami flew to Canada, hoping to see Opa one last time, unfortunately it was not in time, but she did attend the funeral. Here at Sumba, with members of the village, we attended the funeral service online with the link which was provided and held a remembrance with 1000 candles. We hope that Mrs. Somer and all of Opa's family are given strength and comfort from God above.

Despite this sorrowful news to start the month and year off, we know the work at the mission must go on. This is God's mission, and we trust God has a big plan for the village. We pray for God to bless us with wisdom, willingness and joy to do this work. School work has resumed with joy and excitement after a two-week break. Teachers have held a meeting to implement lesson plans and ensure that this new semester will run smoothly. Uncle Yanrus, several workers and the boys have built chicken coops. Ibu Etin was also busy with a new garden located beside the boys' dormitory. This included having the boys repair the fences around the garden, which were damaged by cows and buffaloes. The school fences were also repaired and improved with the help of the students and their parents. Teachers are busy preparing exams for grades 6 and 9, and we are excited to add additional classes in February.

We are thankful there is still rain coming down, even though there have been strong winds at times. Due to the abundance of rain, there has not been a shortage yet. At the same time, this means we can continue to grow vegetables in the garden (tomatoes, chillies, and corn) and tend to them. There is also thick grass around the house, which we pull out; we are unable to cut it because there are a lot of rocks. Sunny days are for gathering firwood so we can cook. We are still praying for additional staff to help with: in the kitchen, caring for the toddlers, and helping with laundry. The girls take turns to help out in the kitchen and with the laundry. This month, we were also blessed by the Association Christian University, which came and donated clothes and dolls for the children.

Church services have been going well and are growing. We are grateful that more villagers are coming to worship; sometimes the place is full, and some will sit outside on extra chairs. The mission post is also doing well. We are grateful that God continues His work in this place with the help and kindness of you all. May God bless this work and glorify His name.

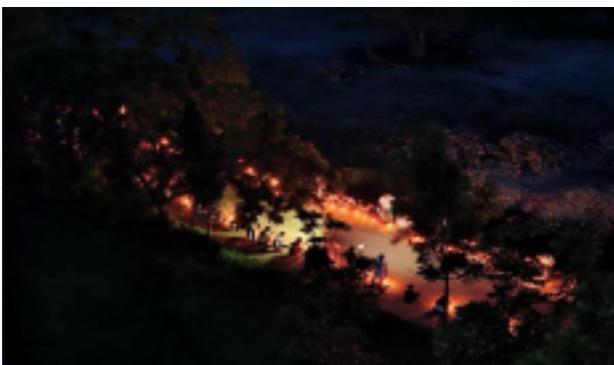
Mami's health continues to be a struggle, and she continues with treatment. At this time, she is accompanied by Uncle Yanrus for treatment. We are praying and hoping that Mami continues to be blessed with good health and that God will bless the doctors and the treatment which they provide, so they may return to us soon. We are looking forward to the upcoming visit of Opa Pennings, Mrs. Ina, and Daniel, who are arriving at the end of the month. May God bless their journey to Sumba. We hope all the plans and activities for their visit here run smoothly

Looking back at this month, it was a tough month, and not easy to go through. We receive comfort that God is here and does not close His eyes to us. We cannot do or continue all the services of Pengharapan Home without God's help and through your support. May He, with His own hands, continue to bless and repay your kindness and sincerity.

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” (Psalm 90: 12). This is one of the verses that Opa liked to read to us since we were little.

Warm regards from all of us at Pengharapan Home,

Vivi



1000 candles to remember Opa.



The boys are repairing the fence around the house.



Making a school fence together with parents.



Work together to pull grass around the house.



Making the chickens coop.



Children bring plants to plant around the school.



Saturday Night.



Working in the garden.



Mission Post.



Planting trees with parents.