

Spring
2026

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Mission Statement

Our greatest desire is to see the glory of God advanced in Sumba as we bring the Gospel to the Sumbanese people. Our prayer is that they may, by God's grace, embrace the Saviour of sinners, Jesus Christ, and have their lives shaped and influenced by the Bible. We desire to see lives improve spiritually and materially as God provides for and blesses us in our work.



Sunday School Christmas Program

More than 515 children attended our Christmas program held on Dec 22, 2025. Due to the heavy rain and wind some of the children arrived soaked. Others were brought to the Pengharapan Children's Home by the mission truck, otherwise they may not have been able to attend because of the rain. Children from the surrounding three mission posts as well as the children who live at the home joined together.

The program went well and it was nice to see so many children with happy faces. The children sang songs and recited Bible verses that they had practiced for several weeks leading up to the program. The practices were held twice a week during the month of December so that all the singing and recitation could be from memory.

After the program each child received lunch consisting of rice, eggs and vegetables or rice with soup. Many hands of the staff and older children from the home helped to prepare all the food for this special day!

A second Christmas program was held in Karaunggu Wacu, which is about 30km away from the home (an hour+ drive). Approximately 200 children attended this program as well as a number of parents who came to watch the children perform.

This was a special event for us, and we thank the Lord for opening doors. Karaunggu Wacu has not always been open to the gospel or our work with the children. Many people in this village worship idols or try to combine idolatry with Christianity.

At first very few people attended this church, but now they have their own pastor and many of the locals attend the services.



Prayer Requests

Pray that the Lord will graciously bless each student, teacher, and staff member.

Please pray for more staff. There is an urgent need for loving Christian caregivers for the toddlers as well as kitchen staff.

Thanksgiving for the funding to purchase an operational truck used to bring food and other goods from the city to TanaMBanas.

Thanksgiving that the school addition has been completed, and we are able to use those classrooms.

Our current school year, which began in August, is going well.

Students recently competed in some district contests for poem recitation, story-telling, speeches and singing. Many students from Rehoboth Christian School won prizes for their contributions. We are thankful for the effort put forth by the children and the teachers to earn these achievements.

It's a big deal for the students to go to town and stand in front of a large crowd. For some of them this was their first time outside of TanaMBanas.

November was very warm

and teachers would often move classes outdoors under the shade trees.

When the rains began in December everyone was happy to be indoors.

On December 24th the school building expansion project was completed. The government kindly provided the funds to build a computer lab, library, office, science lab and washrooms. Part of the agreement was that these buildings were to be completed in 150 days. We are thankful for the administration, construction crew and supervisors who put forth a team effort to complete the project on time.

Rehoboth Christian School



Meet Paulus

Paulus is a student at Rehoboth Christian School and has lived at the Pengharapan home since he was a baby.

Q: What is your age and school grade?

A: I am 13 years old and I'm in grade 8.

Q: What is your favourite school subject?

A: I love to study English and sports at school.

Q: What are some things you enjoy doing in your spare time?

A: I love playing football with friends and playing online games with Jason in my spare time.

Q: What is your favourite food?

A: I like to eat bread and ice cream.

Q: What chores are you responsible for?

A: Helping Mami by cleaning the house, also feeding and caring for the animals.

Q: Tell us about one of your best memories.

A: It was a moment at the end of last year, when I received my Christmas present from Mami even though I had made a mistake on the same day. Later that day we set off fireworks on New Year's Eve with Papa and all my brothers and sisters. I will always remember that and learn from my mistakes, just as Mami taught me how to be obedient, in accordance with the Word of God which was taught to me.



In Loving Memory of Opa

Christiaan Wilhelm (Bill) Sommer
July 24, 1937 – January 5, 2026



By the grace of God, Mr. Bill Sommer, together with his wife Marion, lived and worked among the people of TanaMBanas from 1999 to 2018. The children who came into the home and under his care affectionately called him Opa. He helped to provide orphans and needy children with a home, love, food, other necessities as well as a Christian education and upbringing. His genuine desire was that each child would be born again and live for God. He would teach the children to pray and lead the evening devotions whenever possible.

“Opa was a very special person to me, even though I didn’t have my own parents to take care of me like other kids. Opa has been like a parent to me since I was a baby. Opa fulfilled my needs and made me feel loved and cared for like his own child until I could become who I am now. I am very thankful to have had Opa in my life. I realize that what Opa taught me and gave me are precious things that I must keep and share with people around me, especially the kids at Pengharapan Home who are now also my students. I will always remember Opa and what he taught me and all of us at Penharapan Home.”

Sarah

“Opa is a figure who has left a deep mark on my life. Since childhood, Opa not only cared for me and the other children but also taught us how to be people with compassion and good character based on the Word of God which he taught us. Opa also demonstrated this through his example of a life full of love for God. Opa taught me the genuine meaning of family that it is based on love, sacrifice and loyalty. Opa’s guidance and example helped me to be the person I am today. I am now a teacher who will pass on what I learned from him to all the children here. The memory is strongly formed and will remain with me throughout my life.”

Opi

“I was just seven years old when I became part of the Pengharapan Home family. I was just a little girl and didn’t really understand about how life would be. Opa talked to us about how life would go on. Opa always wanted us to do our best, because he wanted us to be the best we could be. He instructed us to stay on the right path through life, as the Bible says. Opa is such a special person in my life, and I’ll always remember him in my heart. Opa also taught me a lot about the Word of God and those lessons have been very important to me, especially now as I work as a teacher. What I have received from Opa, I now share with my students and all my brothers and sisters here.”

Elsi

A note from the mission field...

“We end this newsletter with lots of praise and thanksgiving to God for His continuous grace to us. We look back at what we have been through and what we have done in these months. It would have been impossible to do it ourselves, only His grace and strength make us able to do this work. May all the honor and the praise go to Him, and may God forgive us if we unwittingly stole any honor from this work.”

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

James 1:17

New Water Truck

A big surprise arrived in October! Our new water tank truck arrived. We thank Siloam Development Foundation (SDF) for helping us by supplying us with this truck. This truck came at the right time; it arrived near the end of the dry season, and we really needed extra water. The water trucked to the site will supply water for the bathrooms in the children’s home, the school and the boys’ dorm. There is a cistern beneath each of these buildings which holds the water. When the rainy season begins the cisterns will be filled with rainwater.

Before the new truck arrived, we would bring in our water by filling 18 plastic drums in the back of the dump truck. Each drum contained about 200L of water which worked out to 3,600L of water in one trip. The new water tank truck can carry about 6,000L of water. The water is picked up at a spring about 25 km away.

The original well, drilled 25 years ago, cannot supply enough water for the school as well as the home and local people.

We are going to have a lot of work in the garden from now on. We plan to make our garden bigger and install drip irrigation. We hope this will go well and we can grow more of our own food. We also plan to teach the children how to grow plants as a new way of farming. May God bless our efforts.



To financially support this work in Sumba, Indonesia cheques can be sent to:

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(Memo: Sumba Mission)



E-transfer deacons@hrc.church
Please include your name and address in the message section.

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