

Dear Sumba Friends

We send you our warmest greetings from our warm country. We sincerely hope you are staying safe and in good spirits, especially as we look at the recent events around the world with instability and the current war in Iran. For us, our focus remains on providing a stable and nurturing environment for our children in the home, the mission post, the students in our school, and the wider community, regardless of what is happening in the world.

I am writing this report from Bali as I am waiting for my insurance to approve a hysterectomy. I have been struggling for several years with Endometriosis and Adenomyosis. In the past, I have had laparoscopic procedures and injections of Tapros (hormone therapy). Lately, I have been having severe pain and have been bleeding. The doctor has suggested it is at the point of getting a hysterectomy. This has been a difficult decision for Yanrus and me, as it was suggested a few years ago to have the surgery, but we were still hopeful that God might bless us with a son or daughter. Now this hope has changed, and we know God's plans are better than our plans. I have realized God's purpose in our lives and family is to care for the children we already have in the home. We know that all things are possible with God, and if He were to wish it, He could give us a child. This is not about Him but about us being loyal, trusting and praising Him even when our hearts are crying. Right now, it is easy to write this in a report, but it has come after many sleepless nights and tears.

It is in this spirit of resilience that I am pleased to present the following update on our key initiatives for the March report.

1. School Revitalization & Infrastructure

I am happy to report that the **school revitalization project** is moving forward according to the strategic roadmap. We have completed the Library, Administration office, Science lab, and washroom, ensuring our learning spaces are modern (compared to the local school), safe, and conducive to the *Kurikulum Merdeka* standards. We remain deeply grateful to our government, whose contributions have been vital to this progress. Despite all this progress, we still feel the need to have an additional 3 classrooms. At this time, with the class divisions, we have 6 junior high school classes but only 3 classrooms. We have currently been using the school hall for the classrooms, divided into 3 sections, separated with plywood partitions. Each of the 3 classes can hear each other as it is not soundproof. I have been proposing to the government and several friends to help in this area, but I have not received any response yet. This has become a daily and special prayer request of ours to provide a solution, along with funding for the wages of the staff and overall operations of the mission. We do thank God for all of your support throughout the years, and we leave this financial need in God's hand, because it is His and He will provide. With our financial need and the instability of the world, we have many worries, but we can only kneel and surrender our worries to Him alone.

2. Educational & Volunteer Initiatives

In our effort to provide holistic education, we are currently finalizing the recruitment for our **Volunteer Teaching Program**. This initiative focuses on practical skill-building, specifically in **English language proficiency and baking skills**. We believe these vocational classes give our students a unique advantage, a sense of creative independence, and life skills. We are happy Kim wants to come to help us this April. We are also looking forward to having visitors from Holland in May to help out. We have been discussing what they are going to do while they are

here. May God help them prepare for their trip. We pray that God may bless these plans, and it blesses the children and community.

3. Economic & Administrative Outlook

We are closely monitoring the impact of global energy fluctuations on our operational costs. While the "Strait of Hormuz" situation has created broader economic pressure, we are implementing internal efficiencies to ensure our core educational services remain unaffected. Our commitment to financial transparency remains a priority as we navigate these fiscal challenges together. Lately, it has been difficult to get food supplies because the boats don't come as frequently, and the price of the groceries has increased as well. We try to plant many vegetables, cassava, sweet potatoes, etc., to prevent buying as much. We are grateful to have enough water for now, and we are amazed that our water cistern is full and looks like we should have water for the entire year.

4. Special Project

Finally, our new pickup truck is ready after waiting for almost 2 months. The last payment was made last week, however, the truck is still in Jakarta at this time, as we are waiting for the final side bench and roof. We will use this truck for many reasons: as a "bus" to the mission post, bringing those who are sick/unwell to the hospital. Thank - you SDF for helping us to make this a possibility. We hope to have the truck at the home within the next 2 weeks, and we are excited to see it. We pray that God will also bless us in using this vehicle for the mission.

We thank the Sumba mission Board, SDF, and all friends in Canada, Holland, US, Indonesia and all over the world for your continued guidance and partnership. In these changing times, we strive for our mission to be a beacon of stability for every child and family in our care, being surrendered to Him alone for guidance. We find strength in the promise found in **Isaiah 33:6 (KJV)**:

"And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure."

Warm greetings

Christine



Morning devotion



Computer class for grade 5



Parents meeting with the students



Parents meeting with the students



Gardening



Gardening



Mission post



The little ones having picnic by the beach