



May - June Trip To Nias

This was my 52nd trip to Indonesia and 45th to Nias. The first was in 1968 after a two year missionary assignment in Malaysia. I was 22 and bringing my bride of three weeks to America. The participation of Chuck Dennis the last couple of years is a real blessing, both personally and to the work. Chuck & I were gone May 28 – June 13. As some of the programs in Nias are described here, we include pictures of the people who lead and serve in them. We have not included their names. God knows those. We want you to see their faces.



Village Evangelism

Ten circuit riding evangelists serve 83 village churches. In addition to this being the spiritual force behind much we do these churches are the foundation for other activities. From these villages high school students come to the dormitories, children come to the children's home, vocational students come for secular training, and more. These men get salaries of about \$220

monthly. From that they provide their own transportation, cell phones, and meals while away from home. They are certainly not doing what they do for the money because there isn't much



Jochebed's Choice Children's Home

The last couple of months have been difficult for the children's home. We had 58 children from the poorest of the poor families on Nias Island. Perhaps for the first time in their lives they eat well and get medical attention when needed. They go to school regularly. They are taught God loves them and has a plan for their lives. A highlight of this trip was seeing 6 of them baptized into Christ. This makes a total of 8 who have made that decision. There have been many times when children were sick and a few times when they were hospitalized. In April disaster struck when two of "our kids" passed away in the hospital; one with a fever of unknown origin and one as a result of an injury. At that time several had fever. All

were given examinations and blood tests but the source of the problem was not determined. Everyone else has since recovered. Our hearts remain heavy because of the loss of Fanaro and Ucok. Our first thought was that we had failed. On reconsideration, we have not failed. I do not doubt that more would have gotten sick in villages than with us and they would not have received medical attention when illnesses or accidents struck. More would have died, but today they are well. We have not failed. We have just not been successful 100% of the time. As poor as they are, upon hearing of the two deaths some families removed their children from the home. In addition, we have found it necessary to return three boys to their families because of repeated bad behavior that endangered themselves, others and the ability of the home to continue to provide its services with the favor of authorities. As I write this the home's population is 44. We are going to deliberately take our time getting back to capacity. There is no shortage of very poor children.



Dormitories

The dormitory program which provides housing for high school, and a few university students, as they continue their education in the city is going well. We participated in the selection of students for the 2013-14 year. Due to the number who graduated and a few who did not continue school, we accepted 25 new students from the 44 who applied. They will go to the schools of their choice but will be required to attend church services and a weekly Bible class. Most will become Christians during the next three years. We were present for the baptism of 17 of these already in the dorms on June 9th. It is a joy to watch these timid village kids become young adults in the Christian environment we provide.



Vocational Courses

We visited the facilities for the tailoring course, salon course, computer course, English course, and motorcycle repair course. The motorcycle repair course has been difficult to get off the ground but as all the courses start again in August this will be one of the offerings. These courses are intended to supplement incomes of some who live off their fields and gardens and raise pigs and chickens but have little or no cash when someone gets sick, for school tuition and uniforms and other things that require money.



The Farm

The farm behind the children's home provides the vegetables for the children's home. Some of the boys are given chores to do in the fields and with goats. Another program that has been slow to get off the ground is finally producing. That is the giving of weaning age gilt pigs to selected village families who must give two gilt pigs from their first litter to two other families, who in turn do the same. We have four sows and a boar. We sell the male pigs to help pay for feed. In April thirteen gilts were placed. This is one of our many attempts to help people help themselves.

NONE OF THIS JUST HAPPENS

The gospel is preached, children are provided for, families are helped, and students get education and training because the people pictured in this report do their jobs. But all of this also works because people like you give. Among the needs at the present are:

Sponsors are needed for twelve dorm students. \$20 monthly sponsors a student. We ask for a one year commitment (July 2013 – June 2014). The money can come monthly, for the full year at one time, or anything in between. Students have been selected and will move to the dorms in early July. Would you sponsor a student?

Vocational course sponsors are needed. \$300 sponsors a student

for a 3-4 month course. Tailoring course graduates go home with treadle sewing machines. Salon course graduates go home with things to set them up in that line of work in their home. Motorcycle repair course graduates will go home with basic tools to start their business. Between 20 and 30 students will start these three courses in August. Only six have sponsors at this time.

One time donations for the general budget are always needed.

Preachers must be paid, vehicles need gas, seminars need to be conducted, facilities need to be maintained. Any amount at any interval makes what we do possible. Not one cent of your donation goes to fund raising or reporting expense or a U.S. salary. Checks should be payable to Faith Village Church of Christ.