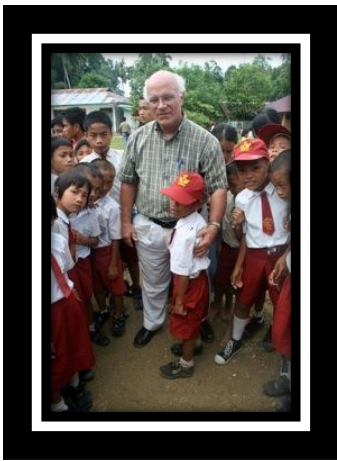


# NIAS INDONESIA REPORT

By Dennis Cady

April 2015



## March Trip

Chuck Dennis and I returned from Nias March 31st. Words barely describe the satisfaction of seeing the maturity of those who are carrying on the work in such a responsible way. This is the 21st year I have gone to Nias. The work has been so blessed. I used to have to manage things closely. That is no longer the case. Many have played a part in the success of this work. Many still do, as supporters, sponsors, and those on the front lines in Nias. Pictures in this report are of several who lead and serve there.



## Village Preachers

These are eight of the nine men currently serving as circuit riding preachers. They work with a total of 89 congregations. Four of these have been established in the last four months. They also

conduct seminars in village churches and leadership training courses. One is planned in April. Colin McKee from Alabama frequently joins these men from Nias as an instructor.



## Jochebed's Choice Children's Home Staff

Forty five children from the poorest of the poor families are provided for at the children's home. All are not orphans. Many have lost one parent and the surviving parent cannot provide for them. We generally take children about the time they are ready to enter primary school and most will be with us through high school. \$60 monthly sponsors a child as long as we supplement that with a special appeal from time to time. Young lives are literally saved by removing them from poverty, but more than that they are set on a road toward heaven. Each

sponsor receives a picture of "their child".



## Dormitory Supervisors

We can accommodate 84 students in three dormitories. We own these buildings. These are high school, and a few college, students from rural Nias. They go to the schools of their choice. We provide free rooms in a wholesome environment. They provide their own food. There are rules you would expect in a Christian dorm. They have a weekly Bible class and attend Sunday worship. We give them some spending money from the \$20 monthly sponsorship provided by friends in the U.S., Malaysia, and Singapore. The balance of the sponsorship money is used for the supervisor's salary, utilities, and routine maintenance. Twenty five will graduate this year. Replacements will not be

difficult to find. During the selection process....both at the children's home and dormitories.....in a very real way we play God with the lives of these young people. What happens during the next three to twelve critically important years depends very directly on us and those who sponsor through us. We don't hit a home run with every child, but this part of what we do is so rewarding.



### **Vocational Teachers**

Vocational courses are taught in computers, tailoring, and motorcycle repair. Fifty six students were in the most recent computer course, 10 are in a four month tailoring course, and 5 in a four month motorcycle repair course. Classes are kept small, not because more students aren't available, but because we want to turn out a prepared student in minimum time. Each student in the tailoring and motorcycle repair courses goes home with tools of their trade and can be in a cottage business immediately. People live off the land--so they don't starve--but have little or no

cash with which to buy medicine when children get sick, to buy school uniforms, etc. This changes that for some. \$300 sponsors a student, including teacher's salaries, facilities, and the things needed to set up their business upon completion of the course. This is the best way we have found to help people help themselves. Transportation and meals during the courses are student's responsibility. We don't believe in handouts. We believe in meeting them half way; in helping them with what they can't do once they have done what they can. Without an investment on their part the success rate drops significantly.



### **Farm Staff**

Behind the children's home is a 2 1/2 acre "farm", perhaps better described as a huge vegetable garden. Under the direction of Karsa and Markus who are pictured, the children from the children's home participate in preparing soil, planting, weeding, and harvesting. Vegetables for the 50 some children and staff who eat at our table three times a

day come from here. There is also real value in having meaningful chores for the children after school. At some point most of them will be back in villages as adults. They will know better ways to plant and fertilize than their grandparents did. They learn about raised beds, composting, and more. Through the farm we have also distributed 38 gilt pigs. Each recipient is to give two gilt pigs to two other families from their first litter. Male pigs are sold to help pay our feed bill.

### **Are There Needs? Of Course!**

A separate sheet describes financial needs at this time. We realize there are many who knock on the doors of generous people. Our doors get a lot of knocks too. We know this is a fruitful work. Not a penny given is used for a U.S. salary, fund raising, or reporting. We pay for our own trips to Nias. Do you want to support evangelism and church planting? Do you want to help children who are so poor some won't survive without us? Do you want to help people gain skills that can take them and their families to the next level? A "yes" to any of these questions points you to what we do. Thank you for prayers and contributions.

# **Needs In Nias At This Time**

## **Jochebed's Choice Children's Home**

1. Sponsors are needed. Sponsorship is \$60 monthly or \$720 annually. The sponsorship year is July 1st - June 30th to correspond with the Nias school calendar. Payment can come monthly, annually or anything in between. At this time we are contacting present sponsors in a separate letter, hoping each will renew. We usually need a few replacements, as sponsor's situations change. Also, this year five children graduate from junior high and will move into the dormitories in Gunung Sitoli for high school. We will continue to sponsor them as children's home children. However, there will be five empty beds at the children's home. We can only take five new children if we have new sponsors for them.
2. Inflation in developing countries can be staggering. Sponsorship is the same as it was 5 years ago but expenses aren't. They consume twenty eight 66 lb. sacks of rice a month--almost one a day. That is 336 sacks of rice a year at \$28.30 a sack. One sack/\$28.30; 3 sacks/\$84.90; 5 sacks/\$141.50; 10 sacks/\$283.00; one year supply/\$9508.80. One or two sacks of rice for a children's home in Indonesia.....sounds like a great project for a kid's Sunday School class. I know if I was a teacher of a children's Bible school class I'd jump on this! Some say "I can't". Some find a way.
3. \$1,500 is needed to repair/replace some playground equipment such as the slipper slide, swings, etc. These kids don't have piles of toys and devices like American kids do.
4. We need to build an exterior stairway from the second floor of the original building to the ground. This is important in case of fire and prevents the older boys and girls from having access to one another at night. The existing stairwell which the 2nd story boys use and which is located in the center of the lower floor would be closed off. Cost: \$800.
5. The recreation of choice is soccer. There is no way for 45 kids to play soccer gently. Our kids go through an average of a soccer ball a month. Cost: \$20 a ball. A ball a month: \$240 a year.

## **Dormitory Sponsorship**

Sponsorship in the dormitories is also for a year at a time and the sponsorship year is also July 1st - June 30th. Sponsorship is only \$20 monthly or \$240 annually because we basically only provide dormitory space, unlike at the children's home where we provide everything parents would normally supply. We give each student about \$10 a month which helps with school fees and some pocket money. The rest of the money pays the supervisor's salary, utilities, and routine maintenance. We are in the process of contacting existing sponsors but experience tells us some replacements will be needed. Sponsors are given the name, a picture, and a little biographical information about the student(s) they are helping. Again, money can come in monthly, annually, or anything in between.

## **Partial College Scholarships**

Each year we offer a partial college scholarship to 2 - 5 exceptional students living in our dorms who graduate from high school. This year we would like to offer two. Recipients, who are truly college material and who have convinced us they and their families can handle the rest of the expenses involved, will continue to live in the dorms

during their college years and receive the \$1200 spread over five years. We must, however, have the \$1200 before a scholarship is awarded to a student.

### **Vocational Scholarships**

A one-time scholarship of \$300 funds the training of someone in the motorcycle repair or tailoring course. These courses last 4 months and students return home with what they need to set up a small business (sewing machine and accessories or set of tools and small compressor). The computer course operates a little different. We are down to 8 working computers. It would be good if we could have classes of 12 students at a time instead of the present 8. One time donations to replace desk top computers would be helpful. Each computer: \$300.

### **General Needs**

We send \$9,000 to \$12,000 a month to Nias, inclusive of sponsorship funds. In reports like this and as I speak to groups I try to break out some bite size needs. I've found some people like to designate where their giving goes. It is easy to say "I can't give \$9,000 a month", but most who want to can sponsor a dorm kid for \$20 a month..... or a child in the children's home for \$60 a month..... or one tailoring student for \$300.....or purchase a sack of rice for \$28.30. You have just been given several options. Pick one that fits your interest and your checkbook. If you would rather give and say "use this as you see fit" there are always salaries to be paid, repairs to be made, and one or more of the things we have singled out that are unfunded or underfunded. I don't want to face my Maker someday, not having taught and helped all I could, just because I didn't ask. All contributions should be to Faith Village Church of Christ.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Dennis Cady

Faith Village Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 3696  
Wichita Falls, TX 76301  
940-631-1985  
Email: [dcady6@gmail.com](mailto:dcady6@gmail.com)  
Website: [focusingonindonesia.net](http://focusingonindonesia.net)