



# September NEWSLETTER, 2018

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## Java Journey 2018, 18th August - 4th September

It was a wonderful journey through the hinterland of Java and in and out of the lives of our sponsored children, the pastors and their families and, of course, Petrus, Sri and their families. What a privilege it is to socialise with them, learn about them and show them that we love being with them. Mostly, our people are well and happy. Life has its' ups and downs, for them as well as for us. We always conclude that we could learn so much from how they live their lives. So yes, we covered a lot of kilometres and admired the carefully carved rice fields, the colourful gardens, the zeal of the locals as they get up so early to start the daily routine..... this photo here is not rice, but a variety of vegetables.

We don't aim to see all of our folk, but as many as we can in the time we have. No-one can describe the feeling we have seeing a large group of sponsored children coming together to visit us and to have a fun time together. The same goes for the pastors along with some of their families - so eager to share their culture and their lives with us - to teach us how they make or do their little cottage industries. Even taste the result of their cottage industry - like the cookies that Yesaya and Martha produce - yummy! Also, the clove oil production at Eko and Ester's. They are so informative and we are so privileged to be a part of it. And we got to bring some home! Clove grows on trees - I learnt a long time ago - not small bushes, which I had thought.... Our morning walks always turned up an interesting event, or people happy to talk to us.



**Sponsorship is - for children** - Yearly \$240, half-yearly \$120, quarterly \$60, or monthly \$20. You may use a Direct Credit facility at the Bank - ask me for details. For **University students** - \$300 yearly, for 2-4 years depending on the course. For **Pastors** - \$480 yearly, for 4-5 years maximum.....

Sponsorship pays for schooling for students, some study for pastors and goes towards growing a church for the pastors, plus we contribute to medical and dental expenses and one good 'going out' set of clothes a year. We give food parcels at various times.

Please mark your sponsorship 'due date' on your calendar each year - and I will put a small reminder in your newsletter if necessary. Many thanks.

**Sponsorship is for children and pastors** but donations can be towards

- \* Petrus' sponsorship,
- \* administration
- \* HFTC orphanage
- \* HFTC support of rural pastors
- \* HFTC building projects
- \* The Ricebowl

**Please outline how your donation is to be spent.** Thank you.

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Please pray for Petrus, Sri, HFTC helpers, sponsored children pastors and sponsors. Thank you.



Name : Grecia Putri (F)  
Born : 2 August 2011  
Grade : Elementary grade 1



Name : Fanesa Putri (F)  
Born : 22 February 2012.  
Grade : Elementary school grade 1.

These two girls need sponsors please. If you know someone who might like to help educate a child in poor circumstances and lift them up to a better understanding of life, please direct them to us as we have several children needing new sponsors right now. There are some older students needing new sponsors also, male and female, if someone would like to take a student for a shorter time.

The **school day** has changed this school year. Instead of starting at 7.30am and finishing around 1.00 pm Monday to Saturday, students now still begin at 7.30 am, but finish at 3.00 pm Monday to Friday. This is why Endang does not have to do the before school breakfasts on Saturdays as she does on regular school days. Scout activities can still happen on Saturdays.

**Java Journey 2019** - hopefully in June.... If you have ever wondered what it would be like to come with us, please decide you will come and let me know at your earliest convenience. We would love to have you along - and so would our Indonesian friends.....

Last year **Petrus** lost his sister, who was a member of the HFTC Committee, and he lost his very good friend, Jan Rietkerk, the leader of SETIA Foundation, which assists HFTC a great deal with buildings and maintenance. You might remember I wrote about him at the time. Petrus still feels very sad about each of them. This year, Petrus would like to write something about Jan - in his own words.....

"In memory of our beloved Jan Rietkerk.

Sometimes God gives a special mission to someone and the mission that Jan received was: Let the children in East Java glorify my Name..." When our youngest daughter Sylvia and her husband Darwin were invited to go to the Netherlands to attend the 25th anniversary of SETIA Foundation they faced a little problem obtaining the visas to enter the country even for a short period of time. Grumblingly I asked whether we also need visas to go to Heaven and smilingly Jan Rietkerk said that visas are not required for going to Heaven but only Great Faith..... On the last day of a trip here, we visited Mt Bromo and a village school, the first Christian school that was helped 25 years ago. After seeing the school Jan was very happy and said, "I am satisfied... knowing that there are lots of children now who love the Lord Jesus..."

He was a man who dedicated his life in the jungle of Papua, high up in the mountains and in the valleys of East Java to serve God whom he loved much..."

Still talking about **schools**, salaries differ significantly between our Christian schools and Government schools. At Government schools teachers' are paid \$300 per month, whilst at Christian schools they are paid around \$40 per month - or what the school can afford. Many teachers have worked for less because they are committed to the job. If the school is bigger and can charge more in fees, then the teachers can be paid a little more. There is no monetary input from the Government to Christian schools. Whatever we can do to help the school we regularly visit is always very much appreciated.

**We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give...**