



November NEWSLETTER, 2017

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Java Journey 2018 - Sometime in July....

As always, our focus will be the work of HFTC - visiting children and the people who oversee the work, in particular, Petrus Widjaja.

HFTC has expanded into Central Java and overseen by Sylvia - Petrus' daughter and her husband Darwin. We plan to visit Jogjakarta, then make our way across to East Java where most of the children live. It is a most satisfying tour to undertake and you will be happy you have done it.



Gamaliel Orlie needs a sponsor please. Born on 3/3/2008, she is in Grade 4 at PS



Novita Sari also needs a sponsor please. Born on 2/4/2005, she is in grade 5, PS

Hope For The Children has been helping children since 1978 and helping pastors almost all of this time, but formally as in sponsorship for the last 10 years. In this time hundreds of children and their families have experienced the benefits that come with education and better jobs and pastors have grown their churches and learnt improved methods of living. Some sponsors have been with us for all of this time, others for a shorter time, but all are welcome and appreciated for the time they give us. However, some of these older sponsors are now past sponsoring - some have failing health, some have moved into care, some have passed away and this leaves a few children right now without a sponsor.

We need a new sponsor drive!! Can you help us with this? I'm not asking existing sponsors to take on more children, but to encourage friends or maybe businesses to support a child please.

There are many children needing sponsors. If we could all find a new sponsor and duplicate ourselves, how wonderful that would be!!

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** - \$400 yearly, for 4-5 years maximum.....

Sponsorship pays for all educational and scout expenses - books, shoes, uniforms, etc. plus all 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 and sponsors. Thank you.

Our Java Journey was great - warm, accident free, safe travelling, meeting with many sponsored children and the people who attend to their welfare - the hospitality, friendships and fun was just super! On the whole, the children and our adult friends are very well and also doing very well at school, work, etc. Life has its' ups and downs everywhere in the world, no matter who you are.

However, there is a family in crisis just now and I am not sure how we can help. It does involve money, of course. Three children live with their mother and father, their grandmother and another family member who is not well. The tiny house belongs to the grandmother, who has two children - the mother of our little family and a son who is married with a family of his own. The house was to be divided up between the two siblings when the grandmother died. Our dad (a very lovely man) has proved to be far too naive and trusting. With sponsorship helping the family by paying for the children's schooling, he managed to get a part-time job selling shoes. He had to sell them, then pay for the consignment. They were happy and felt that they were getting somewhere. He trusted his friend who said he would help by selling half of the shoes. The friend took the shoes but did not pay, so our dad was now in debt. He borrowed money from the bank to pay for the shoes, but now had a debt with the bank. He lost his job..... but now has a job selling second-hand things, which he works at all the time to make the money to gradually pay back the money he owes - and for them to be able to eat. Along comes their neighbour who talks dad into selling him half of the house (the half which was theirs), took the money to the bank and paid the loan, but then kept the House Ownership Certificate himself. This means that our family now really have no place of their own. The half of the house which was theirs is not theirs anymore and the other half of the house, where they live, really belongs to mum's brother. If the brother decides to use this half of the house, the family will be out on the street. What has to happen is dad needs to pay the neighbour to get the House Certificate back - or they need to move to another house, which takes more money. We are looking at between \$3000-5000 to get them out of trouble - with everything put in mum's name so that dad cannot do this again. He just lurched from one bad decision to another, not realising the consequences of his actions. So far the family is sticking together. Three of our children on the street would be too much to contemplate!



You are forgiven for wondering about this picture!! :Yes, it's a whiteboard! **Endang is the principal of the Christian School** we visit and she oversees a large group of sponsored children, with a special interest in children from broken homes. The second photo is of the staff plus visitors. The school does not receive any funds at all from the government because it is a Christian School, so it is very difficult to keep all the equipment in working order and , indeed, to have any equipment at all!

We discovered that the staff would really like to have whiteboards in the school instead of blackboards - chalk dust being the cause of much discomfort among staff and children. The group did a collection and gave Endang the money to buy 1 whiteboard. Since coming home the group has provided two more whiteboards! That's all Endang asked for and she and the staff are so happy with their new boards. That's just one of the circumstances we can and do fix while there. It's a real blessing.

Another problem we solved whilst there was for **Sihati**. She works so hard for her village and explained that when the dry season is there rice is not planted and so there is no work for the villagers. No work - no money. It's only part time work and these people are the parents of the sponsored children she oversees. It's very little money, but all they have. So, our enterprising group have set up a little fund called Sihati's Ricebowl, just for the dry season. Now that the wet is there, the situation will return to normal until the next dry season! Great, isn't it? Such a little gesture

There is no better exercise for the heart than reaching down and lifting someone up.....