



HOPE FOR THE CHILDREN - ORPHANAGE



Orphanage is a word which covers care of orphans, displaced children, abandoned and abused children, refugees, children who need a temporary home while their poor parents travel to another village or island looking for work.... There are millions of these children in Indonesia. You can support our orphanage through the link below.

Over the years, there have been several additions and alterations which make Ratna's job easier - like a new washing machine and two bathrooms, etc. We try to keep the number of children at any given time to 10, as this is more manageable and keeps the 'family' atmosphere. There have been instances of a mother staying with her children in the orphanage (like the refugees from Aceh) until the mother is able to make enough living to rent a room for herself and be independent. Just over 5 years ago, Ratna was approached by a teenage girl who was pregnant, but who could not keep her baby because of family shame, so Ratna and Sugito agreed to take the baby from birth. Ratna took the girl to hospital for the birth and took the tiny baby girl home with them - they actually adopted her and the other children in the orphanage at the time, named her 'Lovely Angel'. She's the little one in the photos. All of the long term children are sponsored, but it's difficult to sponsor short term stays.

Ratna, a teacher, is married to **Sugito**, who is a Pastor. They have three grown-up children of their own. When they first started having their children, Ratna was not able to work and has not worked fulltime since. Sugito does not earn a great deal and so, each of their three children has been sponsored. They lived in a very small, poor house, but looked out for, and cared for, any people in their village who were disadvantaged, or needed help in any way. They have very big hearts and Ratna cannot overlook any who are in distress, especially children. Petrus first met them when they were desperately trying to send their three children to Primary School.

Since then, Ratna and Sugito have taken a keen interest in the development of Hope For The Children and have always been anxious to pass on, or repay, if you like, the kindness and generosity which was extended to themselves. They praise God through it all. Ratna understands the importance of a good education as a tool to elevate people up from the depths of poverty. Several years ago, the idea of an orphanage was born. They were always being approached by local villagers and complete strangers with requests for help with either the care of, or the education of - even medical assistance for - the children belonging to these people. From time to time, Ratna would take one or two children in to share their home for short term assistance. It became obvious that they could become a **half-way house** for displaced children, and an **orphanage** for abandoned children and actual orphans. So, as they opened their tiny home, the need for a building program became apparent. The Dutch arm of Hope For The Children came to the rescue with small dormitories for the extra children.



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