



Java, Indonesia – Ministry to Children



Children at Central Sumba VBS - Loving Like Jesus

Indonesia is a large nation made up of many islands, languages and cultures. It has the 4th largest world population, after China, India and the United States. The capital, Jakarta is a very large city located on the main island of Java.

Java is the world's most populous island. Although it has both rural and urban areas, 50% of the Indonesian population live there. Muslims are by far the majority in this huge island nation. Few are fanatics, most nominally follow Islam, but also are greatly influenced by traditional tribal beliefs.

The Indonesian population is very young, half are under 30 years of age. The number of young Indonesians who become

Christians is rapidly growing. Many, however, live in places with little fellowship.

Gospel Ministry

MERF's Java ministry team prepares gospel radio programmes in Bahasa Indonesian, Javanese and Sundanese languages. These are shared over the airways and electronically to bring the message of God's grace in Christ to the lost and build up the faith of lonely Christians. Alongside this important ministry, the team also focuses much energy on building up the next generation of children and youth in God's Word.

Youth Programmes

Bible-centred activities are organized for children

and youth and Sunday school teachers and Bible club leaders. They seek to inspire and equip them for effective work among the young ones. This is done through in-person and online activities throughout the island of Java and even on neighbouring smaller islands.

When Covid forced in-person children's activities and teacher training to be held only online, the surprising result was to extend and multiply opportunities beyond anything ever imagined. Inaccessible places and faraway islands were suddenly brought very near over Zoom and by other online technologies. The waning of Covid measures has enabled gradual re-establishment of group Bible teaching activities

for children and Sunday school teacher training. Yet, at the same time online ministries established under Covid measures are being adapted to meet the needs of faraway friends for teaching and fellowship.

We are especially thankful that the team is now able to make trips from Jakarta to visit some faraway areas to hold Bible Camp and teacher training events. Children and teachers often gather from a wide region to take part.

Praise God for Joy Bible Camp held at the end of June for Sunday school children from the East Lampung - Sumatra region. More than 250 children and more than 60 Sunday school teachers gathered from 7 churches for the Bible Camp. Some



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- Lakoka, Sumba Reading House where Bibles and other materials are distributed to remote places by motorcycle and Library-horse.

traveled 150km to attend. They crossed a river by boat and traveled 6 hours on poor roads to arrive.

Waiting for participants from two distant churches, the camp got off to a late start the first day, but from then on all went smoothly. The children took part in the games, Bible teaching and activities with great joy. Thank God for His protection during the trip and the camp. We pray for all to return home with blessings, joy, and growth in faith.

receive love packages of Bibles and teaching materials for ministry to children. *Please remember them in your prayers:*

- Biak-Papua Junior High students needing Bibles.



Lakoka-Sumba Reading Room & Reading Horse. *Left: Joy Bible Camp East Lampung-Sumatra.*



Teacher Training

In September, 12 Sunday school teachers are traveling from Ambon-Maluku for training at MERF's ministry centre in Jakarta. Pray for the preparations and for the course to inspire and enable them to clearly and faithfully raise up the next generation in God's Word.



In July another Joy Bible Camp is being held for children in the Megamendung area with the theme: *Blessed to be a blessing.*

Some churches in places that are too far to visit can

Like Jesus" Vacation Bible School in June.

- Students of Patumbak government elementary school, North Sumatra whose Christian religion teacher is soon to retire.

- 300 children of Central Sumba attended "Loving

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