NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Newsletter — Vol 1, March 2025

Dear Friends,

"Too much of a good thing is wonderful!" is written on a little signboard above the doorway to the common room in our house here at New Hope.

It has travelled with us all the way from Kenya, where it was given to me probably twenty years ago by some friends, after I had used the witty statement many times in front of their two girls, needing to justify the liberal amounts of chocolate I used to be able to consume in one session.

The rather bold, almost philosophical assertion of course can be, and has been argued, (not only in regard to chocolate) ... but I think there is a deeper underlying question:

Is there such a thing that is truly and fully good, so much that no matter how much of it you have, it just gets better – simply wonderful?

People strive for things that society tells them are good for them; and that getting more and more of it will bring happiness and satisfaction to their lives. The rich and successful are idolized, and envied, conveniently forgetting that their success and wealth may have come through very questionable ways.

It is almost frightening for me to see how much the culture here in Indonesia in the last decade of rapid digitalization has been influenced by the onslaught of electronic and social media, with many are falling into the same trap.

If all that is there in this world is temporary and material, then it can only be: "More, more, and more", and "me, myself and I".

It is not a new thing. The writer of Psalm 73, Asaph, confesses that he almost fell for the same delusion: *"... my feet had almost slipped, I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked*." (V.2)

At the end of the psalm, however, he concludes there is an eternal perspective and there is a just God, and that changes everything: "*Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you*." And he regains his foothold and his bearing, affirming that there is after all such a thing that is truly good, and truly wonderful:

"BUT AS FOR ME, IT IS GOOD TO BE NEAR GOD.I HAVE MADE THE SOVEREIGN LORD MY REFUGE; I WILL TELL OF ALL YOUR DEEDS." (V.28)

Our children here at New Hope are far from exempted of the cultural and medial onslaught I wrote about above. It is or hope and our prayer that while they are here with us, we can give them a good foundation for their lives, knowing they are loved and valuable in the eyes of Good, and they can experience His true goodness, giving them a steady bearing for their future.

Thank you for your care and support for them, and for as all at New Hope Ministries!

In Christ's love,

Wolfgang & Heidi

(for all children and staff at NHM)

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- *The upcoming final exams for our children in class six of Primary, and class nine and twelve of Lower and Upper Secondary School.*

PRAISE GOD!

- *Praise God with us for His recent protection when one of our raised water tanks burst.*
- *We have come through a round of parotitis of almost all children with no serious cases!*

OTHER NEWS

The downstairs bedrooms are fully renovated and newly occupied. The girls are very happy for their new sleeping quarters, some have even said "It is like sleeping in a hotel!" (see photo above)

QUARANTINE - AGAIN!

A bit more than a year after the Dengue-fever epidemic, this time round our province has been hit with parotitis.

Spreading in schools first, inevitably the virus also found its way into our boarding home. The fact that an infected person can pass on the sickness a week before having any symptoms doesn't make it any easier to control it, so despite our best efforts to quickly quarantine the sick children (as demanded by the health department), over the last almost three months I think pretty much all of our children have had their turn, apart from the few whose parents took them to the government immunization program as infants. Thankfully we are at the back end of it now, and none of the children got seriously ill!

THE FALL AND THE FLOOD

We had both, not in Biblical dimensions of course but none the less quite dramatic and potentially dangerous - and a reason to be deeply grateful for protection from above, both literally and figuratively speaking.

A few days ago, the 5000-liter plastic water tank sitting on a six meter tall wooden platform behind our house burst, with five tons of water taking down the roof next to it, flooding the back garden including Jessie's sand pit and the Primary School children's play area. The water levelled everything in its way, including bushes. Toys and garden tools were washed away all the way down to the bottom fence.

That it all happened in the middle of the night was clearly divine timing - it could have been much worse otherwise! We are grateful to God that the damage was material only and none of our children got harmed.

ALMOST THREE QUARTERS THERE!

As we shared in our last newsletter, we are hoping and planning to buy a vehicle, most likely an MPV, for New Hope Ministries. Thanks to generous donations from churches and individuals in Australia, Malaysia and Germany we are three quarters there. We are humbled and amazed by the generosity of those who gave and encourage to pray God that will provide the remaining funds within the next few months. If you would like to be involved in getting us there all the way, there still is opportunity!

Kindly contact us for more details!

PLENTIFUL HARVEST!

The new hydroponic system has produced its first crop!

Yefta and his team just harvested about a quarter of the Mustard greens they planted, and that has been more than enough vegetables for two meals for a hundred people.

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If you want to support New Hope financially, you can DONATE ONLINE on the **World Outreach International** website, or you can CONNECT to one of the national World Outreach offices:

www.world-outreach.com

New Hope Ministries is part of World Outreach and follows recognised child safety and protection standards. World Outreach is a member of 'Child Protection and Safety Network.'

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