



NEWSLETTER PIKULAN FOUNDATION

Pikulan Foundation aims to help continue and, if possible, expand the nine adoption and sponsored projects in Indonesia, inspired by and in obedience to the Bible, in close cooperation with the people involved.

May 2020

From the chair of the board

This newsletter is published at a time of a worldwide corona crisis, something we have not experienced before. We have to stay at home as much as possible, work from home if possible, keep distance from each other, and nursing homes and churches are closed. In Friesland there have not been many cases so far, compared to the southern and western parts of our country.

Thinking of our brothers and sisters in Indonesia, we fall silent. We have excellent health care, accessible to everyone, and we receive much support. We hope and pray that everyone who is struck by the virus will have the power and strength to overcome it. I wish everyone who is affected, in The Netherlands and Indonesia, much strength and the experience of God's presence. We are in His hand.

A Pikulan promotion tour was planned this autumn, but it had to be cancelled unfortunately. Too few people were interested, and looking at the situation of travelling right now, chances are that the tour could not go ahead because of the pandemic. We have decided that 2 or 3 board members will travel to Indonesia next year and meet with all project managers in an organised multiple-day meeting.

We would still like to consider a next promotion tour in about 2 years. Perhaps we have to rethink the set-up of the tour, and shorten the number of weeks, because 4 weeks was quite long many people said. You will hear more or read more in the coming newsletters, and your suggestions are welcome!

It has been quiet in our Tanjung Priok project in Jakarta. The children who are supported by Pikulan and their parents are grateful for the support. They receive the agreed amount. In the mean time they formed their own board. Until then the board of Cilincing has done this work, and we are very grateful for that.

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There is a new promotor for the Usaha Mulia project, Hinkel de Vries. She has been in the board for over 20 years, and was promotor of this project before in the past. Sipke Scheepma, who has been promotor since the end of 2010 had too little time, and we are grateful that Hinkel can pick up things. We wish her much success.

We are often looking for things we can do in Indonesia and what we can mean for the people. We have been richly blessed with the proceeds of our charity shop in the past few years. We could build up some reserves that can be used now that the shop has been closed for around 8 weeks at the time of writing. We also received several donations at the end of the year from people, churches and foundations. On behalf of our friends in Indonesia we thank you: TERIMAH KASHI BANYAK.

I hope and pray that we may stay healthy and that we may continue our cooperation in helping our neighbours in Indonesia. I wish everyone a nice and blessed summer.

Bouke Baron



The charity shop

Also the charity shop is affected by the corona crisis.



The first month of this year was quite busy. There was a large supply of goods, and sales were also good, resulting in a somewhat higher turnover than the previous year at that time. February was also good, and again a somewhat higher turnover. We were expecting much of the year, and we were thinking how well we could spend the money on the numerous support projects in Indonesia.

And then March came. We received alarming news from Wuhan China, but we were still thinking it was far away and perhaps it would blow over. But far from it, the virus was spreading and reached Europe and The Netherlands in no time. On Friday 13 March we decided to close the charity shop temporarily. We weren't forced by the government, but we were worried for our staff's health and the wellbeing of our customers. Many of us are in the high-risk segment because we are not the youngest and we have underlying health issues. Some volunteers were so afraid that they did not dare to work in the shop anymore, and they didn't think it was responsible in the light of the intelligent lockdown enforced by the government.

It has been two months now. The curve has flattened due to the measures that were taken.

Fewer people are in the IC and things seem to be more under control. Several larger companies have opened their doors again for shoppers. We are planning to re-open on 18 May. In the mean time a number of volunteers are busy building a new toilet unit of two toilets, and an area to wash hands. Now the construction work is almost done, it is time to clear the dust that has landed in the shop. There are new covers for the stands so that the goods on display will look their best. We want to open the shop, but not at the expense of our volunteers and our customers. That is why we needed to take some more precautions.

For the time being, the shop will only be opened in the afternoon, and every customer needs to use a shopping basket so we can control the number of people in the shop. There is one-way traffic in the shop, indicated by arrows. Coffee is served from 1.5 meters. Supplies can be delivered in the morning only, at the back of the shop. Despite these measures we hope we can remain a pleasant place to shop.

Arie Botter, chairman Charity shop

Who wants to sponsor me?



Irene is 11 years old and lives with her father, mother and 3 sisters in the leprosy village Batulelling. Her parents grow vegetables and sell them on the market, but their income is insufficient to pay tuition for their 4 daughters. Help is needed urgently.



For **Rafaël** (December 7 years) from the Batu project, we are looking for support. His sister and he are raised by their grandparents, because their parents are divorced and almost out of the picture completely. Grandpa is in ill health and has no job. He is trying to get food on the table each day by offering massages. But according to the paper work he does not succeed every day, so who would like to help this littly boy ?



Novel from the Baturetno project lives with his parents at his grandmother's place. The father is a farm worker and has an unstable income. They don't have their own place to stay. They live with very little furniture and water is leaking in many places. Can you help this family?

Semarang Project

One of our earlier projects is Semarang, with dr. Darmyanti in charge. Below she writes about her history with Pikulan.



The relationship of Pikulan and Yayasan Taman Sejahtera (YTS) Semarang in Central Java. A long time ago, two Dutch men visited the clinic where I work as doctor. This was in 1998. They were Arie v.d. Vliet, he was the photographer, and Jaap v.d. Meer. They represented 'Wilde Ganzen' Foundation to check whether their donation for the renovation of the clinic including the purchase of a house behind the clinic was spent well.

Back then, the point person was dr. Oei Kim Hien, my boss in Panti Wiilasa hospital

where I was responsible for family planning. Then I received the programme for adoption children from Jaap v.d. Meer. Later I was asked to become supervisor of ibu Suyati, a project pioneer of Mr Geert Folkers in Yogyakarta. The name of Pikulan is still on one of the houses there.

The reason I was asked was because ibu Suyati didn't speak English and couldn't make reports for Pikulan, so I took care of that. In the year 1999 I received an invitation from the board of Pikulan to go to Surhuisterveen and speak about my work in the community based clinic in Semarang. I was doing an internship at that time in the elderly home Bielandhof in Delft. That was the time that I first met Mr Geert Folkerts. Later I was asked by Jaap van der Meer one time to guide a Pikulan group on tour in Indonesia.

I believe it was in 2002, before Mr Hans Korda was appointed as guide. During the tour the Pikulan group joined a church service in GKI Gondomono in Semarang. Ever since there has been a warm relationship between the church and Pikulan, and much support for among others the construction of 2 Sunday school class rooms. The relationship continued, and more and more projects were added, such as micro-credit, the milk project for malnourished children below 5 years, the elderly project, etc.

At that time Mr and Mrs Siebe and Feikje Vlasma were promoters of my project. We received many donations e.g. from Dunlop, for emergency aid for people who were suffering because of the flooding of Semarang city. We also had two students for an internship in our clinic. We met guests, among others Mr Sjouke van der Meulen, Bert Jan Baron and Mrs Mandy Tromp.

The relationship between Pikulan and YTS is good because we share the same vision and mission: helping poor people. It is a big advantage that I speak and understand Dutch, it may not be perfect, but it is sufficient. During the last visit of the Pikulan group in 2018 we received sponsoring for the renovation of our clinic, for which I am very grateful to Pikulan, on behalf of all staff and visitors.

Kind regards, Darmayanti Saludung

Notification Pikulan information afternoon

In autumn 2019, Pikulan had their 35-year anniversary. We intended to pay attention to this fact on Saturday 18 April 2020 with an information afternoon. We wanted to give an overview of all the activities of Pikulan in the past 35 years. You will understand that this afternoon couldn't take place because of the Covid-19 virus.

The new date is Saturday 17 October 2020. The start is at 15.00 hrs and the presentation will last until around 17.30 hrs. Entrance is free, including coffee, tea, etc. We will also try and make live contact with one of the projects in Indonesia. In short, we hope it will be a special afternoon.

Save the date! You will receive the official invitation later, and of course your neighbours, friends and relatives are welcome as well.



Help for families without income

Corona virus has consequences for our projects in Indonesia as well. A few months ago, Pikulan received an inheritance from a friend of Pikulan's. We had saved this amount until we learnt that we need to support all these people in our projects that have lost their jobs and their income because of the Corona lockdown measures. All project managers have made a proposal to provide direct help. In case of serious unemployment, a food parcel or money is donated for the first 2 months. If this isn't Provision... We are grateful that we can offer help in these circumstances.

Schools in Indonesia

In these projects we mainly help with paying the tuition. Schools in Indonesia are different from schools in The Netherlands. See the figure below. Pikulan is mainly concerned with the following types of schools:

SD = primary school (starting from 7 yrs)
SMP = the first years of secondary school (13 – 15 yrs)
SMA (theoretical education) and
SMK (professional education) = secondary school, the higher yrs.

Via St. Kasihi we support a large number of children with a supplement to their tuition for the above mentioned types of schools. We would like to say something about 2 schools.

SMK Tirtimoyo

Total number of pupils, 140, from which 41 are sponsored. Only 4 parents can pay for the complete tuition themselves. Around 90% of the pupils are Muslim. The integration can be considered quite successful. An example of this was Christmas.

After school, 5% goes to university and all other pupils find a job directly because of the good network the school has. New shoes were bought for the sponsored children from the 25% of Pikulan's Christmas gift.

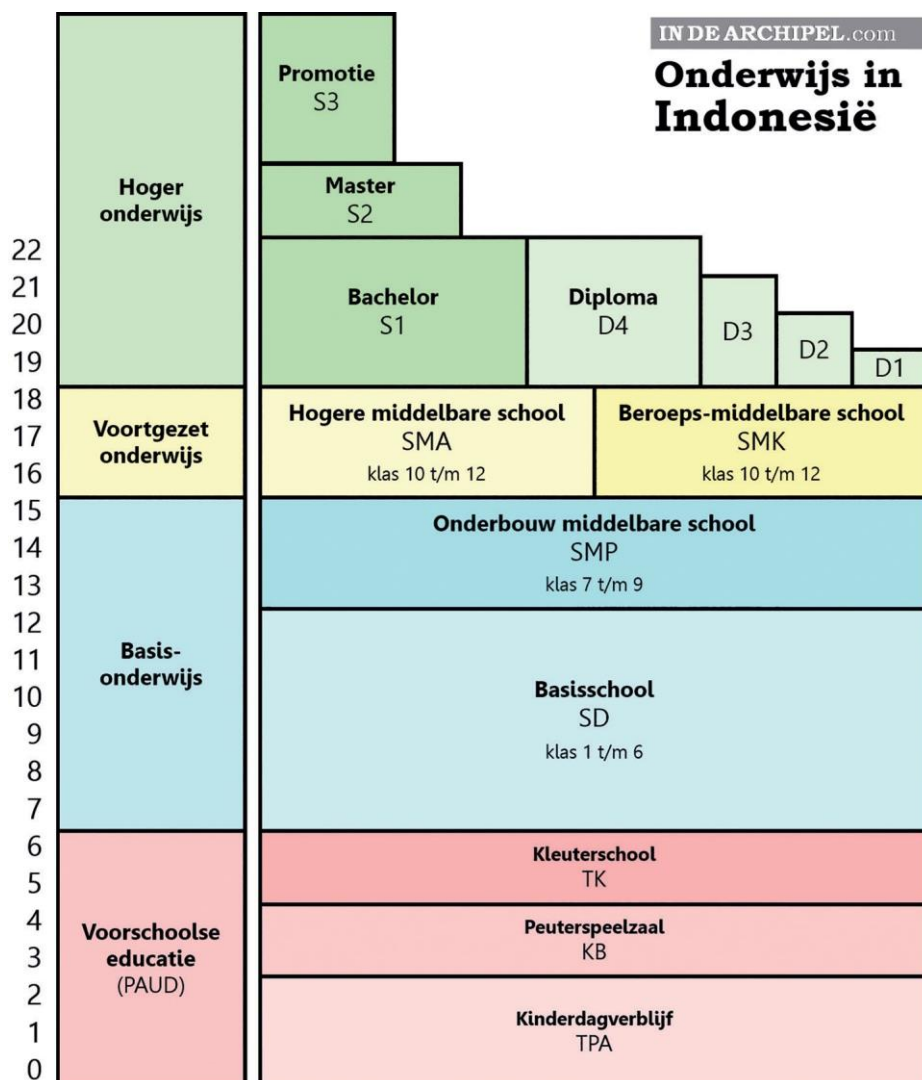
There is a number of completely abandoned youngsters who have to find a side-job at 15 yrs to be able to buy food. These are tragic circumstances and that is why this group needs extra attention.

We want to give them a good and healthy meal once a day, because we thought they can't study on an empty stomach. That is why we are working together with the school's canteen to give them a healthy meal every day. Ismi (our point person), is making a proposal that Pikulan will gladly accept to provide meals to these homeless children,.



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Onderwijs in Indonesië



SMPPL Gantiwarno

At the end of last year, Pikulan has provided 4 bikes to this school. The bikes are very useful for the children who live in a remote area. First they had to sign a contract with school which says that they can borrow the bike, they don't have to pay rent for it and that they need to treat the bike with care and keep it clean. The school's management is already noticing the advantages for the school and for the family and the children: the children are more diligent and more enthusiastic to go to school, and they can go to school independently. According to the principle the children take good care of their bikes, so that the bikes remain in a good state.

Maria Bumbungan, project manager Batulelling, reports

In 1985 two people were on holiday in Sulawesi and stayed in Toraja hotel. They met ibu Rantesalu there. They started talking about Pikulan helping poor children, and about leprosy village Batulelling. The two visitors said that Pikulan only had projects on Java because of the veterans' history there.

God is good!

Two months after, ibu Rantesalu received a letter that Pikulan also wanted to help the leprosy village. A start was made by adopting a boy and a girl: Yusuf and Batan. After that Pikulan sent more forms so that more children could be adopted. After that a water pump was installed, and with the connection of a water pipe more than 50 houses could be provided with clean water.



First, the village had no pastor. When a pastor was needed, you would have to go to the city of Rantepao. Then a pastor moved to the village. He got the small house called "Fryske Peallen". (The name refers to the sponsor). More sponsored houses followed, for example 'Geert Folkerts' and 'Burgum'. When people had problems, they could always call on

ibu Rantesalu. In the years after, more improvements of the village followed. Houses were renovated, some got a new kitchen, a place was built for the Pikulan secretariat, and new toilet buildings were added, etc.. People were helped for making products for the tourist market. They received money to buy a pig or chickens. In this way they received help to provide for their own income.

Thanks to ibu Rantesalu and Pikulan they received a better life. So far, more than 100 children could be sponsored, which helped their success. Now they are nurses, bank clerks, teachers, sailors, shop assistants, tailors, lawyers, etc, all coming from our village.

In October 2019 it was decided during a family gathering of all villagers of Batulelling to talk with Toraja church, because we were still concerned about the announcement that was made that they wanted to move the village. But we were assured by a representative of Toraja church that we should not worry about that anymore.

The building that Toraja church wanted to construct on the location of the village presumably needs more space. According to him it is only important to take good care of our families, our children, and that we keep praying for God's blessing for our lives.

"Please, write about our Hope: the Hope from us and please pray for us, Batulelling not move. This is our place. We are happy to stay here, all people here is our family. If Toraja Church want to come for make some building, they can come and live together with us. Gods bless for all friends of Pikulan".



For over 10 years, Batulelling has received donations to buy and distribute rice every six months. First, 500 kgs rice could be bought for the 49 families, but because of the rising prices these past years, it is now 250 kgs.

Pikulan has helped in this way for more than 35 years. My grandfather told me stories about what it is like to have leprosy, how people are discriminated and are doomed to stay poor.

Accept God's plan

On our website you could already read news about STT Diakonos. Fortunately, a number of new students have come around New Year's. By sponsoring and donations (donors and churches) it has been made possible for poor students from Sumba, Nias, Kupang, Papua, Kalimantan and Maluku to travel to Banyumas.

Since the opening of the campus in 2016 at the present site, the work has been blessed by God. They started off with simple buildings, but mean while there are well constructed classrooms and student housing. Beginning of March 2020 a new follow up course could be started, and extra slopes and a new kitchen were constructed. One of the slopes is half ready, for the kitchen, the canteen and storage room the foundations have been laid. A large part of the iron frame of the construction is also ready. The facilities at and around the site are gradually improving. With God's blessing, we can make use of the new kitchen and the more spacious canteen at the start of the next school season.

Diakonos is also affected by the corona measures. Like other schools they are closed. The students have to try to do self-study via the internet. Fortunately they can also be active in the garden and in the construction of the kitchen. An extra activity if making face masks. They also gather dead wood to be used for cooking. It is more difficult to buy gas cannisters and they have also become more expensive. The food prices have risen as well (rice and other food items).

All extra negative effects of the corona pandemic aside, supporting this Christian seminary is of great importance. Without financial support from The Netherlands, a large part of the students cannot even pay for the journey from their home island to



Banyumas on Java, and the tuition. That is why we thank each donor very much, be it a church or an individual, on behalf of your brothers and sisters of STT Diakonos. In an old Bible journal called "De dag met God" (The day with God) I read the following: "Faith and love belong to the present, but hope belongs to the future. In our Christian life not only belong faith and love, but also hope! (based on Ephesians 1:18).

Therefore, keep supporting everyone in Diakonos in Faith, and keep praying for them in Love, so that they may keep hope for a healthy and blessed future!

Kind regards, Sjouke van der Meulen



Anda has finished

Anda lives in the leprosy village and has finished his course. He works in motor bike repair in a motor bike store. We would like to share this picture with you. His adoption parents enjoyed seeing him at work. How nice it is that they will continue with a new, younger child from leprosy village Batulelling.



Requests

- Could you ask people in your network to consider financial adoption? The more adoption parents, the more children we can help!
- We welcome donations at: NL75 INGB 0009 1000 83. State the project or name of the child clearly, and also your name, so that we know who the donor is.
- Many thanks to all the generous donors who we don't know the name and address of!
- Transfer the adoption money to NL43 INGB 0006 2734 00 in the name of Stichting Pikulan, Surhuisterveen.
- Please fill in your own bank acc. no, name and address clearly, so that the money can be transferred.