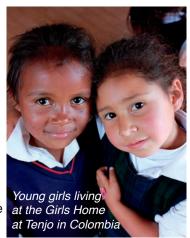
# **Word and Deed**

Serving God, Bridging Communities, Renewing Lives

## **Purpose**

Word & Deed exists for the dual purpose of improving the physical and spiritual lives of needy people in the developing world in accordance with biblical principles. This simple statement, born out of our response to Christ's command to love our neighbour as ourselves, encompasses the objective of Word & Deed in nearly sixty projects being carried



out in thirteen countries throughout the developing world. While our mandate can be summed up in the simple statement above, carrying it out is more complex, and looks different in each project.

In Colombia, this means that micro-loans recipients receive the start-up capital for a small business along with counselling in business practices from a Christian perspective. In Nicaragua, it means that a community development project includes training locals in the commercial production of rice, bananas and beans as well as the training up of Christian leaders. In Haiti, this means that sponsor children at the Adoration Christian School receive meals at school, uniforms and a Christian education, taught from a curriculum that is grounded in the truth of Scripture.

#### **Project Agreements**

In order to ensure that a correct balance between "Word" and "deed" is maintained in the projects, while project goals are being met and that budgets are on track, Project Agreements are written and signed to carefully outline the project. Reports from our partners

are required throughout the year, communication between Word & Deed Project Managers and Project Partners is regularly maintained through email and Skype and an annual visit to the field from the Project Manager in question provides an opportunity for Word & Deed to evaluate the project first-hand, and to provide face-to-face guidance to local leadership.

## Support

It is this constant striving to uphold Christ's model of acknowledging both the physical and spiritual needs of those in the developing world that we believe has resonated with Reformed Churches in North America. Word & Deed receives generous support from churches who are a part of the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC), with the strongest support coming from the URC, CanRC, FRC, and HRC. In 2013, the vast majority of the four million dollars that was received came from members of these churches, through church collections, Business Groups, child sponsorships, individual donations, and donations made through fundraising events. This level of support is also reflected in the make-up of the Word & Deed board, which includes members from each of these denominations (Dr. Adriaan J. de Visser is a member of the board for example). In many cases, Word & Deed has even been sought out by Reformed organizations that are growing beyond their own capacity to manage, often relying on volunteers to do so. Most recently, the Adoration Christian Centre in Haiti (2012) and Children of Light in Indonesia (2014) joined the Word & Deed family of projects.



#### **Example**

The challenge of administrating these projects is well worth the effort and, with God's blessing, it has reaped results. Charol, a young girl living at a home for abused girls in Tenjo, Colombia, is just a single example. She writes:

"Before arriving at the home my life used to be sad and dull because my grandmother and my



Results of the agricultural commercialization project in Nicaragua

uncle hit me badly and I hardly ever ate because they did not have much food to feed us. I used to cry a lot because I could not see my mom [because] she was in jail. Now I love being in this home because they give me plenty of love and I like the food too. They

treat me very well and I can go to study and learn many things. I am very happy because since I arrived here I have been able to visit mom in the jail. I know that. . . God loves us both the same. I am very happy."

#### **Prayer**

Dear supporters, please pray that God would continue to use this ministry of both "Word" and "deed" in the lives of many. Methods aside, "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." Praise him for blessing Word & Deed so richly!

If you would like to support a specific project or receive more information about Word & Deed Ministries please contact us!

John Kottelenberg and Hanna Korvemaker

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Word & Deed emphasizes:

#### **A Biblical Focus**

The good news of salvation in Christ alone is a central element of each Word & Deed project.

#### **Self-Sufficiency**

Word & Deed projects teach the needy to eventually provide for themselves.

#### **Indigenous Leadership**

Word & Deed relies on the skills and assets of our partners rather than relying on North American skills and assets.

# Word and Deed – Children of Light

# The Blessing of Child Sponsorship

#### **Poverty**

Wasry's father passed away when she was little. When she was old enough, she helped her mother do what she could to provide for them, working as simple farmers on the island of Sabu in Indonesia. The possibility of Wasry going to school to become educated probably seemed like an unrealistic dream to this struggling family, if it was considered at all. Or maybe it seemed superfluous in the light of their daily struggle to survive. Besides tuition, how would they pay for a uniform or school supplies?

Wasry's story is like that of so many other Christian children living in Indonesia. Poverty has bound them to a

life of subsistence – a life that does not include education, a life that almost guarantees their continuance in poverty and a life that even hampers their ability to grow up into mature believers, being unable to read the Word of God for themselves. By God's grace, these children have not gone unnoticed.

Pastor Yonson, a graduate of the Canadian Reformed Theological College in Hamilton, Canada, was serving as a missionary with his wife, Mary-Lynn, in Indonesia in the late 1990s. He and a number of local church leaders saw children like Wasry and were burdened by the fact that so many Indonesian, Christian children were not receiving a basic education of any kind. Families who did send their

children to school were making heavy sacrifices to do so, even suffering from a lack of food for it, and still finding themselves unable to provide their children with proper school supplies and clothing.

## **Children of Light**

This was the impetus for the foundation of the Children of Light project and school in West Timor. With leadership from Rev. Yonson and Mary-Lynn, Rev. Yawan and Elder Petrus, the local church community began to build the school. It grew, and many poor families were supported to give their children the opportunity to be educated. When a Children of Light board was established in Canada, the project grew even more. Under the leadership of Andy and Gerda Vandenhaak, this board very successfully made known the needs of the children in Indonesia, paving the way for the Children of Light sponsorship program, through which hundreds of children are sponsored by North Americans.

In 2014, the school has grown from a single kindergarten classroom to include an elementary school (grades 1-6), a middle school (grades 7-9), a mainstream high school (grades 10-12), a trade school with three study options (agriculture, forestry, or fishery), a computer trade school, and a theological high school (grades 10-12) which has a forty percent focus on Bible teaching and a sixty percent focus on general high school studies. Besides these schools in West Timor, there are also kindergarten classes on the islands of Rote and Sabu – two islands where there are many who have never heard the gospel. There are 1200 students benefiting from this work, and 300 of them are supported by North Americans through the sponsorship program. Praise God for so richly blessing this project with growth!



# **Sponsor Children**

In that time, Wasry has also grown. She was one of the first sponsor children to join the program from Sabu Island and studied at Children of Light from secondary school through to the theological high school. After that she continued her studies in Java and graduated from university with a very good academic standing. Today, she teaches at the Children of Light kindergarten class in Sabu, is involved with the Vacation Bible School at her home church and even serves on the Children of Light board. Wasry, and many of her fellow Children of Light graduates. are not only able to provide for themselves, but they are able to act as light and salt in their communities as godly, Christian leaders. As Pastor Yonson states, "Churches are planted and grow by the preaching of God's Word, but the speed of growth is [impacted by] the rate at which leaders are developed in all vocations. [Leaders are developed] by Christ-centred education, and that [is something] that



COL does with intention." With God's blessing through the faithful support of Children of Light donors and sponsors this project has now come full circle.

#### Support

Indonesia is far away. Wasry's plight as a child seems distant to us and it's difficult to envision the day-to-day operations of Children of Light or to fully grasp its impact. But it's our prayer that articles (like this one), reports, and even the occasional letter you may receive from your sponsor child will be effective reminders that God is at work building and strengthening His church in Indonesia. It's our prayer that you will be motivated to continue, renew or to begin supporting the Children of Light project. Your prayers and financial contributions to children in Indonesia are making a real difference in the lives of many, many precious children.

Word & Deed representatives Bernie Pennings and John Kottelenberg visited the Children of Light project earlier this year and were able to meet some members of the reformed church on Savu Island. Some of the kindergarten children in the picture are sponsored by individuals in North America.

On January 1, 2014 the Children of Light project became a full member of the Word & Deed family of projects. May the Word & Deed child sponsorship program continue to be supported and to grow, to the glory of God.

# Mission Work in Indonesia – an update from Pastor Yonson Dethan

In 1997, after graduating from the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary (Hamilton), I returned to my home town in Kupang, West Timor to serve as pastor of the GGRC (the Calvinist Reformed Churches of Indonesia). During this period of time, the Lord has blessed the GRRC with both growth and leadership.

After having served in Kupang, West Timor for many years, the "Ebenhaezar" church (GGRC) called us to serve as a missionary in Malang, East Java. In 2012, our family moved from West Timor to Malang.

The Ebenhaezar church is a small church and not very strong financially, but they have a strong desire and willingness to bring the gospel of our Lord to the people on Java island.

Java is the largest Muslim island in the world. There are about fifty million people living on this island. About ninety percent of this population is Muslim, while the rest are other religions (Christian, Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist, Confucius, and Animism).

In 2013, by the grace of God, a mission post in Malang could be established. Every Sunday, there are about fifteen people who come together to worship the



Dethan Family: Pastor Yonson and Mary-lynn, Rebekah (13), Dawid (11), Victor (9), Berto (7), Elijah († 2012). Adopted are Jonathan (8), Janice (8 months).

Lord. We learn from the Word of God and after the service we have some fellowship together. Praise the Lord, that up until now, we have not heard any negative feedback from the neighbours in regards to our gathering here.

Besides having a mission post, we also have an outreach program where we go to meet people in the city, markets, houses, restaurants and office, etc in order to share the gospel and even pray with them. Recently, we were busy helping refugees and the people who were affected by the Mount Kelud volcano that erupted last month not too far away from Malang.

#### Response

Over the past two years, more than fifty young man and woman have been attending classes where instruction in the scriptures and confessions could be given. Some of these people live in Malang but others live outside and return back to their own location.

From time to time, it is difficult to find classroom space but, DV, in the future there will be provision for a training center in Malang. Having a permanent place would be a great asset for worship services, mission post, or any other Christian activity.

#### Please pray for

- 1. Our mission post here to be protected by God and that it may grow more and more.
- 2. A building for use as a place of worship and as a training centre
- 3. The future education of our children
- 4. Security and protection for our family
- 5. God's blessing on the outreach program and the sharing of the gospel.