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**North Sulawesi School of
Bible Studies (NSSBS)**

One of our staff/instructors, brother Timbul Sirait, is Dean of Academic Affairs. His duties as Dean are to design and evaluate the curriculum, school calendar, syllabi for classes, arrange teaching schedules, student affairs, and student counseling.

Timbul is very qualified for this position. I felt like Timbul would have some informed insight into how the staff and students were settling into their new environment in Manado, having moved a year and four months ago. I wanted him to give me some thoughts about how everyone was doing. His letter to me was very revealing, and I want to share a part of his letter with you. I hope you find his letter as informative as I did. We feel the school has been truly blessed in many ways by moving to Manado.

Timbul wrote the following:

“THE THINGS I FEEL ABOUT NSSBS MANADO”

“The longer I stay in Manado, the more my understanding grows about the positive environment around us. The school staff and students as the North Sulawesi School of Bible Studies (NSSBS) family are getting better at communicating with the surrounding community and government officials.

Regarding the development of our students, I feel a different atmosphere than in Lampung, Southern Sumatra, where radical Islam was growing. This new situation adds to my enthusiasm



**Pictured: Students are folding
11,000 tracts for later distribution.**

to be more diligent and enthusiastic in my work. I feel that I am in a much better place to do the Lord's work by teaching and preparing men to preach the gospel.

Most of our students are transfer students with us when we moved from Lampung in December 2020. They have shown significant improvement in many areas:

First, their behavior is one improvement. They act more mature, there are fewer rules broken, and they are more willing to admit mistakes. We attribute much of this to the environment and better living conditions.

Second, the results of in-class activities, regular studies, and taking exams, are better.

Third, students are more diligent and responsible for working on projects given by their staff/instructors. And the results of their final grades are also better.

Fourth, evangelistic activities are far greater than in Lampung. Evangelism among the staff, students, and church members while in Southern Sumatra was almost non-existent, primarily due to the Islamic climate. However, they participate effectively and often as individuals and with members of the local congregation. Their efforts in evangelism come from Fishers of Men training and weekly approaching people for Bible studies. Students will graduate with a lot of experience setting up studies and how to conduct them. Evangelism in Manado is an added plus that will help them look forward to their work in the mission field.

Fifth, the culture and disposition of the people of Manado, North Sulawesi, who are predominately non-Muslim, are more open-minded. Their willingness to study makes our evangelistic activities easier and more successful.

Sixth, the dormitory and classroom conditions are much better. The students are happy because they have the space to study without being so cramped. Adequate space in the school building has significantly affected the spirit of learning. Students use the spacious rooms for self-study without the noise of passers-by, and they can spread out while using the library, classrooms, the auditorium, and the corridors in the afternoon. In addition, until nighttime it does not require electric lighting, so it is very economical. The campus is in the countryside, and the students enjoy more open spaces. As a result, they feel more comfortable and peaceful, and because there is a large schoolyard, it is used daily to sit and relax while studying, and there is a large area for sports."

We are thankful to have received two significant contributions last month for printing. The staff had already translated eleven tracts ready for printing, and with these contributions, they printed them three weeks ago. After folding eleven thousand tracts (one thousand pieces per tract title), staff, students, and local members have started distributing them and using them as an opportunity to approach people about personal Bible studies. Bible studies, as we have reported in past newsletters, continue. Slowly, we are seeing people respond favorably toward the true gospel. Note: These tracts have also been sent out to other congregations in Indonesia in quantities of one hundred pieces per title.

Pictured:
Staff, students, and members of the local congregation picking up tracts for distribution in the community.



Some of the tract titles they have translated and printed are “Who is the church of Christ,” “Is the Bible From God,” “Is There a God,” “Denominationalism,” “The One True Church.”



Pictured:
Brother Alex Daniel, school director, conducted a four hour seminar one Saturday morning presenting various ways to use the tracts and increase opportunities to set up Bible studies.

The school will start another three month Fishers of Men training course this month (May 2022), and there are more members interested to follow the training. There will be at least two members taking the training who were prospects in Bible study last year. Now, they will learn how to reach others with the gospel. Hopefully, they will not be babes in Christ for long.

Pictured:
Staff and students in the city of Manado passing out tracts.



Pictured:
Brother Sony giving tracts to his neighbors. Sony obeyed the gospel last year and is very active in the church.

The excellent work at the school and in the community continues, and we are so thrilled for how God has blessed this work.

Our last year graduates (pictured here) have just completed their continuing education classes in a local university and have their diploma in education. They will be able to teach elementary and middle schools when they return to their homes. Their diploma will give them the opportunity to find a job and support themselves while they proclaim the gospel. I know the school and congregation will miss them when they return home

**Pictured Left to Right:
Fred, Elvin, Sunia, and Yarmin**



**Pictured:
The foundation to the house on our property next to the Men's dormitory. This picture was taken Feb. 25, 2022 and was in my last newsletter.
Brother Alex Daniel and family will move into this house once it is completed. Then all of the staff will be living on the property.**



**Pictured:
This picture of the house was taken last week, April 27, 2022. We are very grateful to have this addition to the property.**

May God be glorified always. Thank you to all who support the school and keep the work in your prayers.

Yours for the cause of Christ,
Barry and Melany Hatcher