

INDONESIA

Karen L. Werth

VBS SUMBA 2026

August 1, 2026

Dear Co-laborers,

Four years ago, I made my first trip to the city of Waingapu on the island of Sumba, Indonesia. We had just completed Vacation Bible School in West Timor, and I traveled with Agnes as she returned home after helping with our VBS. During that visit, I was able to see the children's ministry she had started and attend the mission work that later became Hosana Baptist Church. Before I left, Agnes and I discussed the possibility of my coming back to hold VBS. Finally, on June 28, 2026, our prayers and plans for VBS in Sumba became a reality.



Beginning in January 2026, workbooks, crafts, game supplies, puppets, and lessons materials were shipped each month. Our original plan was to hold VBS at the home of Agnes's parents where the church regularly met, using tents in the yard to divide the different ages. However, through God's providence, just a few months before VBS the church was able to purchase a piece of property for its own building. Humanly speaking, it seemed impossible that a church could be built in such a short time and with such limited funds. However, God began to touch hearts and needed funds started coming in for the building. Although the building is not yet complete, by the time VBS arrived it had four walls, a roof, and a cement floor. Agnes and her team decorated the inside of the church with banners to match our *Big Fish Bay* theme. A carpenter friend built two impressive lighthouses along with the largest and best puppet stage we have ever had. A large tent was set up in front of the church building to serve as a classroom for the older children when it was time to break into classes. It, too, was decorated with colorful theme banners.



Missionary Jonathan Midkiff and family joined Pastor Evans Tambunan and family, Agnes and her team, and me. VBS began on Sunday afternoon. Children from several surrounding villages were brought in by truck each day. The first day we counted 313 children and adults in attendance! Throughout the week, our daily average was 285, making this our largest VBS ever! At times the crowds were a bit overwhelming, but God gave strength and everyone worked together to make it run smoothly.



Proverbs 13:19 reminds us *The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul*. These words perfectly describe what we experienced. After praying, planning, and waiting four years to see this VBS become a reality, it was a joy beyond words to be used of God to share His Word and the message of salvation with so many children and their parents. There were boys and girls in the older class who made professions of faith as well as two mothers with whom Evans's wife had shared the Gospel. Please pray that the seeds sown will take root, grow, and bear fruit for God's glory. Thank you so very much for your prayers for our VBS and for your faithful and generous support that made it possible. May the Lord richly bless you.

His for Indonesia,

Karen L. Werth

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