

A House for Esther

Support a missionary in her local context in East Bali

Esther (Ni Ketut Suwitri) is a Balinese woman, born into a Hindu family but adopted at an early age. She became a Christian in later life and after studying at theological college, spent many years serving as a Fusion International volunteer and in other capacities. Esther has been to Tasmania a few times to spend time with Fusion and volunteer as a language aide at Southern Christian College.



Her life's dream is to start a school to positively impact the lives of poor and forgotten people of East Bali. East Bali includes dry and infertile areas avoided by tourists, with villages of people working extremely hard just to get by. Esther gave up a job teaching Balinese at a Christian school in order to pursue her dream. She currently resides in the village of West Seraya, in the Karangasem area.

Until now, her plans to start a school in West Seraya have been thwarted due to the lack of village support. The village is 100% Hindu, so all of her applications to work at local schools have been rejected. Therefore she relies on a small contribution from a few faithful friends while continuing to seek God for openings. Esther is also seeking like-minded teachers, and funds. Teachers are hard to come by, since they'd have to have a mission heart in order to even come, let alone work for a very low wage (most school children in Indonesia can only afford to pay \$2.50 in school fees per month!). In the meantime, Esther has started an after-school study club, naming it SCC (Sinar Catur Cinta, the Light of the Four Loves), in honour of Southern Christian College in Kingston.

Esther has been renting a small holiday house owned by a local man who supports the SCC Study Club. Life is still difficult though, as a Christian, as a single woman, and as one who didn't grow up in the village. Esther is constantly aware that she is in a spiritual battlefield. Living in the holiday house also means the villagers see her as an outsider.

In order to bless Esther to be able to live and serve long-term in Seraya Barat, and to give her more 'standing' in the eyes of the villagers as a permanent resident, funds are being raised to help her purchase a small apartment, near where she's currently renting (photo above). In the long-term, this would free up funds currently allocated to rent, and would give her more freedom to do Kingdom activities in her house as a homeowner instead of a tenant.

Esther has borrowed money for a down-payment on this little 3-room apartment, and is trusting God for the remainder of the funds. The total cost is about \$14,000 Australian dollars, without finishings (rendering, paint, tiles, ceiling, soundproofing, etc). This is still cheap compared with housing here!

Please consider donating or raising funds so we can bless Esther with the cost of this apartment. Some admin costs are involved in sending money overseas, and we also hope to raise extra funds to help finish the apartment, so the current target is \$16,000 AUD. If you'd like to donate, please transfer your desired amount to the account below which has been set up especially for her. If you'd like to receive a letter of thanks, please earmark the transfer with your surname and also email hannah.walker@scc.tas.edu.au with your full name for the records.

Acc Name: H Walker
Acc Number: 100804525
BSB: 812-170 (Teachers Mutual Bank)

News Flash! Incredibly, in the last few weeks, local leaders in West Seraya suddenly gave Esther the go-ahead to start zher school with a Kindergarten! Taking a leap of faith, she held a Grand Opening with 70 people in the local hall on Friday, August 18 (photo right). Lots of admin work is still to be done, but she'll start teaching 20 students on Monday, August 21, and prays for more teachers.

