



GEMS and Cadets Mission Solomon Islands Honiara Hospital School

Background Information:

The Mission for GEMS and Cadets will be to raise some much needed money for the Honiara Hospital School in the Solomon Islands. This is a small school that the churches of Australia and New Zealand built through SWIM in the Solomon Islands.

SWIM stands for Supporting Work in Mission. The SWIM base in Honiara, Solomon Islands was established and is governed by the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia.

Missionaries from New Zealand, Australia and Solomon Islands have worked at SWIM and many short term mission teams have travelled to Solomon Islands for various projects.

<http://swim.crca.org.au/>

The hospital school is located at the Honiara Hospital the major referral hospital to all of Solomon Islands. The school was built for the children who missed school while they were in hospital either as a patient or waiting for parents or siblings to recover from illnesses (often for months on end). The school is managed by a local board and has some government funding to help pay the teacher and buy some resources. There is no funding to help maintain or improve the school and that is where SWIM is able to help through the efforts of our GEMS and Cadets.

After a visit to the school in February 2018 and meeting with the school teacher, head paediatrician and school authority fundraising goals were identified as follows: ceiling fans and lighting, access ramp from the kids ward to the school, water supply and a toilet.

While the school is set up as a primary school many children attending have not been in school before. For this reason the education authority is looking to focus on literacy at the school. We also heard from the teacher that many children come to the hospital with only the clothes they are wearing (sometimes nothing) and she would like to have a small supply of clothes on hand for these kids. To help with both of these ongoing needs, individual clubs might like to assist by providing a small yearly supply of kids summer clothing and reader books or children's bibles . This will need to be a coordinated (roster system) effort between the clubs as a small yearly supply of these items is much better than a large one off donation.

The mission theme material includes:

- Opening devotion (*supplies needed: 20 dollar note or paper money*)
- Workbook (*supplies needed: print of workbook for each child, pens/ pencils*)
- Money box craft template (*supplies needed: print template on light card for each child, scissors, exacto knife, glue or clear tape*)
- Encouragement card template (*supplies needed: colouring in and decorations*)
- Food ideas
- Game ideas

Encouragement cards can be sent to Kerry van den Bosch:7 Hennenlotter court, Toowoomba, 4350 (SIW member). Email: kerodvdb@optusnet.com.au