

Prefaces

1 PREFACE BY UWE HUMMEL

This study has taught me much about the dynamics of intercultural encounter, which I believe is the greatest challenge of our times. Writing this dissertation was not only a long and demanding academic endeavour, but also a personal adventure. The close cooperation and sharing with my Niasan colleague and co-author, the Reverend Tuhoni Telaumbanua, granted me a deeper insight into the life of the Ono Niha and their unique culture, as well as enriching me spiritually. Thank you, Ony, for your marvellous efforts, your encouraging visions and our fine friendship.

At the beginning of my academic career, it was my father, the late Civil Engineer Uwe Hummel, who encouraged me to do post-graduate studies; later, it was my mother, the late Ellen Hinsch, née Röbbing, who by her love and trust gave me the self-confidence to progress on my path. I am very grateful to both of my parents!

Shortly after I first arrived in the Netherlands at the end of 1986, I met Prof. Dr. Jan A.B. Jongeneel at the University of Utrecht. Ever since that meeting, I have appreciated his broad ecumenical vision, the intensity of his faith and his patience as a teacher. Without his encouragement as our supervisor, this dissertation would not have come about. We were also very fortunate to find two co-supervisors with equal dedication to the study of Missions and the Church History of Indonesia: Dr. Jan S. Aritonang from Jakarta (Indonesia) and Dr. Thomas van den End from Apeldoorn (The Netherlands). I thank them, too, for their guidance, as well as for very fulfilling academic and personal relationships.

Many others have also supported us over the past years in our research and in writing this dissertation. The board of the *Nederlands Luthers Genootschap* (DLM) made financial contributions for our travels and our stays in Amsterdam when visiting the Lutheran archives; DLM-board members, such as Ms. Coby Aartsen-Kraaypoel, Drs. Hans B. Val and Drs. Ernst J.W.Chr. de Haan, took a great interest in the topic of the dissertation and encouraged us all along the way; Prof. Johannes P. Boendermaker, Drs. Theodorus A. Fafié and the Reverend Cornelis (Cees) Pel advised us concerning the archives of the DLM and of the Dutch Lutheran Church, and some of them also provided us with important data; Ms. Anneke Werner and Mr. Frans Rozemond advised us on the archives of the Dutch Missionary Society (NZG) and the library of the Hendrik Kraemer Institute in Oegstgeest and later in Utrecht. Mr. Wolfgang Apelt was our guide in the archive of the Rhenish Mission in Wuppertal and made significant comments on some of the chapters; Dr. Folke Obermark-Stiller of the Ethnological Museum Wuppertal gave me permission to photograph the *sarambia* and *adu*, and use it as cover design; Dick Zwaan and Leo Steinhart, sons of former missionaries to Nias and the Batu Islands, as well as the former Nias missionaries, the Reverend Herbert Schekatz and his wife, Hellborg, the Reverend Jürgen Kosack and his wife, Ruth, as well as Ms. Annemarie Töpperwien invited us to their homes for long talks about their experiences during their times on Nias and the Batu Islands. Still during my own time on Nias, the Reverend *Ephorus* Bazatulö Christian Hulu and the General Secretary, the Reverend Lala'aro Gulö,

patiently introduced me to some of the secrets of the Ono Niha. I would also like to thank the present leadership of the BNKP, especially the Reverend *Ephorus* Arosökhi Geya and the General Secretary, the Reverend Y.S. Harefa, for their support.

I am most grateful for the help of the 'native speakers' who read the proofs: my friend Drs. Ernst J.W.Chr. de Haan, who read the Dutch Summary, Mr. John McLaughlin, who critically read the conclusion, and especially Mrs. Pat Thimme, wife of former West-Papua missionary, the Reverend Hans-Martin Thimme, who in a scrupulously precise way read the Ch. 1 until Ch. 5 of this dissertation. A word of thanks also to *Uitgeverij Boekencentrum* for the advice given in matters concerning the layout, and to *Stichting Zonneweelde* and the DLM for their financial contributions for the publication.

Last but not least: this book is dedicated to my wife of more than 22 years, the Reverend Drs. Sonia C. Parera-Hummel, and our beloved children, Thea and Uwe (Brudy). The three of them patiently accepted the fact that even during our holidays I was busy with 'Nias'. Sonia carried the burden of a full-time job so that I could have more time for this study-project. Without her encouragement, understanding and love, this task would not have been accomplished

2 PREFACE BY TUHONI TELAUMBANUA

I am greatfull for the opportunity which has been given to my colleague, Uwe Hummel, and me to meet and to cooperate in a process of research and writing which resulted in this dissertation that we have the privilege of submitting to the University of Utrecht. Writing this dissertation was an ecumenical experience of great significance to me. Uwe is a very critical, energetic, and patient friend who has an awareness of the cultural differences existing between us. Through continuous sharing and discussion, I developed a better understanding of my own culture and people, as well as the Western missionaries societies which served on Nias and the Batu Islands. For this inter-cultural learning prosses, I want to express my gratitude to him.

We have been very fortunate to find such a supervisor as Professor Dr. Jan A.B. Jongeneel, a man full of wisdom and patience, as well as two very experienced and critical co-supervisors, Dr. Thomas van den End and the Dr. Jan S. Aritonang. They have guided us in our quest to understand the essence of Niasan culture and history, and to reconstruct the identity of the *Ono Niha Keriso*.

At this moment in my life, I realize intensely that I have undergone a process of development for which I am very grateful, first and foremost to my parents, Talidödö Telaumbanua and Sarifati Waruwu. They not only gave me life, but have also always been my most important teachers. Thanks be also to my educators, from primary school through university, who have contributed very much toward moulding my personality and broadening my horizons. An experience which has been fundamental for my personal development has been my service in the Niasan Protestant Christian Church (BNKP). I honour the members of the synod board of the years 1989 until now, who have entrusted me with ministries in Community Development (Pelmas BNKP), Education (Schools Foundation and as Rector of the Theological College 'STT BNKP Sundermann') and also as the Pastor of the City Congregation of Gunungsitoli. Many have accompanied me along my way. It would

go beyond the framework of this preface to name them all one by one, but I thank all of them for their cooperation and support.

This dissertation was made possible through the recommendation from my synod board (the Reverend *Ephorus* Ar. Geya and the General Secretary, the Reverend Y.S. Harefa), a scholarship from the *Nederlands Luthers Genootschap* (DLM), which was continued by the Protestant Church in The Netherlands (PKN), as well as support from the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) and the church district of Gladbach-Neuss of the Rhenish Church (EKiR), both in Germany. A special word of thanks also to the Reverend Uwe Hummel and the Reverend Sonia Parera-Hummel, as well as to their children Thea and Uwe (Brudy), who received me as a member of their family during my stays in Germany. Thank you for your love, sacrifices and friendship.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to all my colleagues and students at the 'STT BNKP Sundermann', who have encouraged me to continue my studies and have supported me through their prayers. A few individuals who have helped me significantly in the writing process are the Reverend Eirene Gulö, M.Div, the Reverend Paw Liang, Mrs. Pat Thimme, Ms. Thea Hummel, Mr. Wolfgang Apelt, Ms. Janet Kotynski, Mr. Joe Burke and Mr. Indra P. Hulu. Some interview partners who broadened my understanding far beyond all the books I have read were Ama Da'o Bu'ulölö, Ama Wiliba Sadawa, Ama Osara'ö Bu'ulölö, Ama Wa'ö Telaumbanua, the Reverend Herbert Schekatz, the Reverend Jürgen Kosack and especially the late Fatolasa Gulö (Ama Iriani).

Last, but in no way least, I must admit that there is one person who has played the most significant role in my life ever since 7 July 1993, namely, the Reverend Nurcahaya Geya (Ina Chania), my beloved wife. I was able to begin this project and to reach its conclusion because she constantly encouraged and advised me critically, comforted me when I was sad, and sacrificed a great deal of time and energy towards my well-being. I often had to leave her behind on Nias or in Jakarta when traveling to Europe. Although she herself continued her studies, reading a Masters Degree in Jakarta, she faithfully raised our daughter, Chantika Della Kurnia Telaumbanua. I want to express my regrets for having neglected them for the sake of my studies, and thank them from the depths of my heart! Herewith, I dedicate this work to my wife and child, to the *civitas academica* of the STT-BNKP Sundermann, to the BNKP and to the Ono Niha. May it become a blessing for God's people all over the world. *Ya'ahowu*.