

AUGUST 2006

SUDAN DARFUR APPEAL

In August last year, we brought to your attention the amazing opportunity to bring food and the good news into the Islamic stronghold of Sudan. Government estimates show that over 70% of Sudan's population is fundamentally Islamic with Christians only making up 5% of Africa's largest nation. In fact the president of Sudan is a member of the Islamic World Council, and the Constitution of Sudan has as one of its points of emphasis, that Sudan is to be *the* most Islamic state in the world.

Sudan has suffered civil war under the economic, political and social domination from the Muslim North over the non-Arab South. They are burdened with wars and famine-related effects which have resulted in the displacement of over 6 million people, and 2 million deaths over twenty years. This chronic instability ensures that much of the population remains at, or below the poverty level (estimated at around 40% of current population).

Peacekeeping forces are struggling to stabilize the current situation in Darfur (Western Sudan) - one of the most tragic, most savage killing fields in the world. In just four years, the horror of civil war: rape, torture, murder, and entire villages destroyed - has inflicted suffering on a staggering scale.

FTH has conducted multiple projects in this area and we're ready to ship five more enormous containers of food - more than one million meals. You can help us answer an invitation to reach into this Muslim land with life-saving food, ministering hope and healing through the Gospel. Through a lifetime of pain, suffering and heartache the Sudanese people are looking for answers - and their hearts are open to the truth of Jesus Christ.

FTH is going to partner with the SAFE HARBOR organisation who will personally oversee the distribution in the Darfur region of Sudan. Pastor Mawan Deng has served in this difficult mission field for years and considers this breakthrough opportunity as an answer to their prayers.

"I strongly believe that this is the time of God for Darfur," Pastor Mawan says with joy. *"The local people inform us that they do not want Islam any more . . . They open their houses, schools, and marketplaces for us to come and share the Gospel."*

Missionaries now report that small churches have begun to be planted among the people of Darfur. Prior to this, it had taken missionaries and evangelists years to win one Muslim to Christ. But what God is doing in Darfur today is nothing short of amazing!

Pastor Gary Kusunoki of the SAFE HARBOR team reports, *"One of the area chiefs told me that everything they believed in is now gone. All they hoped and trusted in has failed them. He said, 'Now I know that there must be another answer... Maybe it's Jesus.'"*

This sultan is both the civil and religious leader for the region. When Gary and his team shared the truth of the Gospel, he replied, *"I want to learn more... We will come every day for you to teach us about the Bible and about Jesus. Come and build churches and teach our children about Jesus."*

What a breakthrough!

In an area where most people have never heard a single word about Jesus, in a land militantly committed to Islam, we believe this initiative is going to lead multitudes to Christ. And because Darfur has been a bastion of African Islam, strongly influencing surrounding countries for decades, a Christian Darfur will make a powerful impact for the Kingdom throughout northern Africa.

Five containers - a million meals - food actually going to the people who desperately need it. And accompanying the food are Bibles and Christian literature printed in their own language. As members of the SAFE HARBOR team distribute the food – they will share the gospel person to person.

"If they are evangelized today," Pastor Mawan says, "they will be the hope of the Church tomorrow." But we must hurry. "We need to make use of the opportunity, for we do not know when the door will be closed."

This is our opportunity to bring Christ's love to the persecuted families and their children in the heart of Islamic Africa – to the Darfur region of Sudan. They are willing and eager to hear the Gospel.

Please reach out with the compassion of Christ to this desperately poor, desperately needy land. Seek God and ask Him how you can be involved, then give as generously as you can.

INDONESIA EARTHQUAKES & TSUNAMI RELIEF

In July, last month, a Tsunami struck the coast of the Indonesian island of Java killing over 600 people. Our neighbour was still reeling from the devastating May earthquake which rocked the same island taking the lives of over 5,700 people. With the generous donations of partners and friends, FTH was able to send emergency transfers of funds to buy urgently needed food, blankets, and temporary shelters; as well as shipping a large container of food and medical supplies worth over USD\$250,000. One of the team members from our Indonesian partner ministry sent updates from their relief efforts (available on our website) including this note of gratefulness:

"You have been, and continue to be a part of the marvellous plans of God, who before the crisis happens, has already been preparing the way. WE are your hand and feet here. We are your voice and your smiling faces as we come bearing the products that you have sent. When you send us money to buy rice and blankets, we are your love in action to those who need it most and those whom God loves. Without you we are "feet" with no soles on our shoes! Without us you don't have the hands and feet. Together we show the beauty of a wonder working and loving Father who cares for all of His children." - Lynn O'Brien (Indonesia)

FTH is a stewardship ministry; we connect people here in Australia and New Zealand with hurting people from all over the world. We are a church to church, pastor to pastor, person to person ministry.

Thankyou Partners and Friends for making this possible through your generous support.

Voice for the Hungry,

Benjamin Evans
Operations Manger, Australia & New Zealand
Feed The Hungry