

MARCH 2007

## **OPERATION: DOMINO OUTREACH**

Since our relief operations for the Java earthquake began, over two hundred Indonesians have accepted Christ and eight new churches have been planted in the area. Our ministry partners are asking for additional assistance to continue their outreach so that, like the *domino effect*, the gospel can spread from one village to another.

In May 2006 an earthquake struck the cities of Yogyakarta & Bantul & the densely populated rural areas around them on the Indonesian island of Java - killing 650 people and leaving 1.4 million people homeless. Upon hearing of the disaster Australian Missionaries to Indonesia, *Ps. Colin & Kim Crago*, decided to take the hour-long drive from their base in Solo, down to the disaster area.

On their arrival, the Crago's were faced with images of horrific destruction. Homes destroyed, rubble spread across the roads; tales of death and injury, sorrow and heart-wrenching grief were on the lips and faces of survivors. Homeless people roamed the streets looking for a place to rest and sleep, despairing over their ruined homes.

In response to his request for assistance, and in partnership with *CCC Oxford Falls*, FTH sent an emergency transfer of funds through to *Ps. Colin*. These funds were used to purchase rice, cooking oil, sugar, blankets, clothing, tarpaulins, lamps & cooking stoves - both with fuel. *Ps. Colin* seeking locations being overlooked by existing aid distributions, discovered Mengga village. Mengga is home to 49 families or 170 people, and is one of the few villages with an active church in the area.

This Mengga church had 25 active members and a very energetic leader named *Ps. Yehudah* and was used as a distribution centre for the local people. It was quickly apparent that God's gifting and grace was on *Ps. Yehudah* - he was soon distributing food and aid beyond his own village and into surrounding areas.

Grateful for the assistance, the people were moved by the kindness of these Christians and their hearts began to soften. With regular food drops and one-on-one ministry, *Ps. Yehudah* has already led over 200 Indonesians to Christ.

These new converts are not just 'Rice Christians' - a label given to people who will say the sinner's prayer just to receive free food - these are genuine new Christian converts. This is a major achievement in Indonesia, the largest Muslim nation in the world. Furthermore these villages lie in the shadow of the Solo headquarters for Muslim Cleric, *Abu Bakar Bashir*. This cleric is widely believed to be involved in many attacks against western nations, and the training of the terrorist group members belonging to *Jemiah Islami*, and *Laskar Jihad*.

In Indonesia, Muslim's converting to Christ are immediately ostracised from their family, friends and associates and will suffer physical persecution. During the time of the relief efforts, local Muslim leaders sent a gang to the villages to denigrate the Christians and even hurl stones at the Church building. At one point, the Christians were forbidden from using their building, but *Ps. Yehudah* persisted and it is still being used to this day.

It is obvious to Ps. Colin that these converts have been touched by the Spirit of God – as they show clear evidence of a genuine experience with God that is withstanding persecution. It is expected that this aid, this act of kindness, will continue to be an effective ministry tool to the mainly Muslim Indonesian people.

***"It is our desire to continue this program with the view that we are not only supplying a vital humanitarian need to all people, regardless of creed, but we are witnessing the Spirit of God move in an incredible way. If we can continue this village evangelism... then like the domino effect, we will see many other Christians established in many more villages.***

*We are planning a 'second front'. The devastation is so wide-spread that the population is still living among the debris. We feel the same thing can be done in other areas. We have found another pastor whom we have worked with in the past and we are confident he can continue the same type of work."*

*Ps. Colin Crago*

Ps. Colin explained that he is experiencing a "mini-revival". It has taken over two and a half years to grow his home church to 60 people. In contrast, over 200 people have received Christ and 8 new churches have been planted since relief operations began nine months ago. This confirms the truth of the statement *"food is the small key that opens the door of the heart."*

Please prayerfully consider supporting this ongoing work amongst the largest Muslim population in the world. Ps. Colin is co-ordinating an effective and vibrant ministry that is impacting this nation – one soul, one village at a time. This is not a time to turn our back on our neighbours, but a time to put the tools in our brother's hands to continue reaching this nation.



Voice for the Hungry,

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

## **FTH PRAYER REQUEST**

Recent communication from Ps. Colin has requested prayer for his family and the network of new Christian converts.

Muslim leadership have apparently noticed the spurt in Christian numbers, but are so far unaware of the source.

Please pray for their continual protection, effectiveness & the shielding of their activities.



*Ps. Colin & Kim Crago*