

DONORS RESPOND FROM NEAR & FAR



“After reading the article in the Spokesman-Review [Spokane, Wash.], I’m sure it was the Lord who brought Partners to mind when I considered giving aid for tsunami relief. And I’m confident that an additional donation to Partners would be the Lord’s will also. God bless you as you work to minister to survivors.”

—a donor partner

Our Area Director in Cambodia, Joel, long-experienced in relief and development, flew to Banda Aceh where he spent two weeks assisting our relief efforts. When he returned home, one small congregation with our partner, River of Life Church-Cambodia, wanted to know all about his experience. After Joel shared, the congregation collected an offering for the tsunami survivors—50,260 Riel. In American currency, \$12.44, but in the currency of God’s Kingdom, the widow’s copper coins.

IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH *continued from front...*

- Partners International sent a grief counseling expert to India. Christian trainees were surprised to learn *not* to encourage survivors to talk about their experience because it was too traumatic and re-living it keeps them from moving on. Recipients said this training was one of the most practical ways Partners International could help.
- Church Growth Association of India’s women’s Self-help Groups collected among themselves almost \$900 which they used to purchase kitchen necessities for 120 families.
- Partners International sent staff to India and Indonesia to meet with our Area Directors and assess the most strategic ways for us to help.
- From Australia, Dr. Ben, our East Asia Area Director, accompanied a medical team to islands off Sumatra. Years before, Wati, leader of our partner ministry Dairi Christian Fellowship, had received death threats for ministering there. But now she was welcomed with open arms! The team worked day and night treating more than 1,500 people in eight villages on four islands.

In-depth reports of these activities are available on our website at www.partnersintl.org



Partners International President/CEO Jon Lewis with one of the Women’s Self-help Groups that raised almost \$900 for tsunami relief.

TSUNAMI REPORT

Rebuilding Lives and Livelihoods

May 2005



Long-Term Development Renews Hope

Since the tsunami, there are reports that the mindset of some Acehnese has turned from hostility to appreciation for what Christians are doing to serve the people. Partners International, which for years has supported ministries reaching out in word and deed to the Acehnese, is urgently equipping our partners to expand that ministry of loving service during this time when many are open to a message of comfort and hope. Partners International has ten indigenous partners working in tsunami areas—four in Indonesia, five in India, and one in Sri Lanka. In this report you will learn about how your gift is making a difference in the affected regions.



A Partners International team assisted this internally displaced family. Many of their loved ones were swept out to sea in the tsunami.

In the Immediate Aftermath

- Within hours on the hardest hit island of Sumatra, our partners Cahaya Suku loaded trucks with food, medicine, and relief goods, and drove twelve hours to areas in Aceh where relief aid had not yet reached. Bottled water kept many survivors from drinking contaminated ground water.
- Our Area Director in Indonesia organized training for relief volunteers. Christians from all denominations, and mission agencies doing relief, were briefed on what to expect and what to do when they arrived on the scene.
- Our partner ministry, National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL), quickly delivered truckloads of relief supplies to refugees. Mothers appreciated the infant formula because all the stores had been washed away.

Thank you for helping people whose lives were shattered by the earthquake and devastating tsunami of December 26, 2004. After providing immediate relief, we developed—together with our partners—a long-term program to rebuild the lives and livelihoods of those in need.

Our Area Directors are working around the clock to implement this program. They are honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with our partner ministries who are working faithfully in God’s harvest field.

Your investment and that of Partners International is paying great dividends for God’s Kingdom. Thank you!

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Partners International is a global ministry that works to create and grow communities of Christian witness in partnership with God’s people in the least Christian regions of the world.

SALT FLATS



Third-generation salt farmers are grateful to Partners International for helping them regain their livelihood.

The latest report from our Area Director in Indonesia is that the first of many rehabilitation projects has been completed, allowing 110 salt farmers to return to work. When the tsunami receded, salt flats were buried under fifteen feet of sand and most of the retaining walls were washed away. These third-generation salt farmers needed help to rebuild their lives.

Our Cahaya Suku partners, whom we have supported for more than six years, are playing a lead role in developing the strategy and coordinating the work because they know the language and the people in the villages where the work is being done.

Cahaya Suku workers met with villagers to determine the best

way to approach the reconstruction of the salt flats. They drew maps of the flats and organized accountability groups. Once the project was planned, a backhoe was brought in and work began. The first step was to rebuild the retaining walls to keep the seawater from flowing into the flats. The next step was to reconstruct the huts where salt producers boil off the excess water to produce pure salt.

“While World Relief funded the salt flats, Partners International has paid for the staff, training, and operational costs related to the projects and overall work in Aceh,” noted our Area Director.

INDIA



Church planters with EMOS are ministering to tsunami survivors.

Antony Pichai is from Kanyakumari, on the southernmost tip of India. He lost everything in the tsunami. His wife and two sons were swept away. Now he has to look after his two daughters-in-law. He has no boats, no nets and—more frightening—no desire to go back to the sea that turned hostile on him. Church planters with our partner EMOS work among the many families like Antony’s. Through prayer, counseling, and practical help, they bring hope to encourage and strengthen them.

SRI LANKA



School supplies are being provided for children in Sri Lanka.

Partners International is working with the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL) to provide fresh water, food, shelter, and clothing to the most neglected areas of Sri Lanka.

“The NCEASL—which has 50 church planters—is well-positioned to follow through with strengthening the church long-term,” said Tom Chandler, Partners International’s South Asia Area Director. Tom plans to return to Sri Lanka to evaluate the relief and development work next month.

FISHING

Because so many Acehnese are fishermen, another life-changing project is the rebuilding of boats lost during the tsunami. Three boat-building shops have been constructed to produce about 150 three-person boats (25 feet long). Master boat builders have been recruited to work with five apprentices each. Our workers helped develop a prototype and solicited comments from villagers. In April, the first boat was rolled out to sea.



Fishermen were hard-hit by the tsunami. New boat-building businesses are helping to revive this very popular Indonesian industry.

HOUSING



Before tackling the housing crisis, Cahaya Suku had to organize the clearing of debris and the repair of existing buildings. Our partners are also working on the design of the houses and selecting where the first homes should be built. Seven work crews have been formed, each of which can build 70 houses in two weeks. The construction of houses provides many opportunities for the natural sharing of the Gospel as people work together. Installing proper sanitation systems is also essential. Eighty percent of peoples’ illnesses are attributed to improper sanitation, so this project includes installing latrines in each house.

This model home was chosen with the help of local villagers. Work crews hope to build 35 houses per week.

RELATIONSHIPS

Partners International has also helped another partner, Global Ministries Indonesia, in Papua on the far eastern side of Indonesia, to send ten workers to Banda Aceh to help with community development. The team is repairing and cleaning up elementary schools so children can return to a normal learning environment.

“This team has done a great job building relationships with the Acehnese,” said our Area Director. “Visitors come to the house until late at night to talk with them. One young man is asking them to take him to church. Whenever the team meets tsunami survivors who want to talk, they listen. Many of the survivors ask for prayer and the workers pray for them in Jesus’ name. God is answering their prayers and the Acehnese are seeing the power of Jesus’ name!”

World Relief is funding the direct costs of these projects while Partners International is organizing and coordinating the work through our Area Director and partner workers, and funding the operational and infrastructure costs.

“Our leadership and coordinating role contributes immensely to the reputation of Christians and demonstrates that our workers are there to stay, not just provide the funds and leave. This ‘coming alongside’ is in the Partners International genetic code,” said our Indonesia Area Director. ☺