

PCUSA WORLDWIDE newsletter
Indonesia Earthquake Update

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INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

PDA sends aid to survivors of Indonesia's latest tragedy

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) released \$113,500 from One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds to support the relief efforts for survivors of the earthquake that struck south of the city of Yogyakarta on Indonesia's island of Java on May 27, 2006. PDA is responding as a member of ACT (Action by Churches Together) International in cooperation with partners who have been active in the tsunami response.

A \$2.5 million ACT appeal focusing on relief and immediate rehabilitation needs has been issued to provide food and non-food items, shelter, potable water, sanitation, health and medical services, psycho-social assistance, disaster preparedness and advocacy. This appeal is limited to a response period of 3-6 months. Details on the initial response are on the PDA Web site <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/asia/indonesia-earthquake053006.htm>.

Bernie and Farsijana Risakotta-Adeney, PCUSA mission workers in Indonesia, wrote after the earthquake:

"The whole world was shaking, as if a giant picked up a baby and shook us as hard as it could. Most things were thrown from our walls and our floor-to-ceiling bookcases toppled. Many people were in a state of panic. Soon people were screaming, 'The water is coming! Tsunami!' I tried to reassure our neighbors that a tsunami could not reach Yogya, 40 kilometers from the south coast of Java. . . . Our neighborhood was spared serious damage. None of our friends were seriously hurt. But not far from us, thousands

have died and many more are without homes. Our village is now mobilizing food and supplies for other areas."-Bernie Adeney-Risakotta

Read the full letter at

http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/adeneyb/adeneyb_0605.htm.

One of our friends, Ibu ("Mother") Wanti saw her house collapse when the earthquake struck. She escaped. But her neighbor, Ibu Ngatiah, was sleeping with her two children. They were buried in the ruins of their house. Ibu Wanti heard a small voice crying, "Help ... Help!" She saw a small hand waving from the rubble. She started to dig through the debris. It was the hand of Tuti, the daughter of Ibu Ngatiah. She found all three of them. Blood soaked the clothes of Ibu Wanti as she carried her friend in her arms. A Muslim neighbor urged her to say a prayer. As a Christian, she replied, "I'm sorry. I don't know any Muslim prayers!" The neighbor answered, "It doesn't matter! Just pray!" So she whispered into the bloody ear, praying that God would save her and be close to her. Ibu Ngatiah later died at the clinic. Ibu Wanti became a dear Aunt for her friend's children and is like a mother for all the other refugees. . . . We have received another opportunity to continue our lives. This gift is for a purpose: it is to help our sisters and brothers in their suffering.-Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta

Read more of this letter and about Muslim and Christian residents working together at http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/adeneyb/adeneyb_0606.htm.

"WRAP PROJECT" BENEFITS AIDS SUFFERERS IN AFRICA

Colorful wraps being made by Malawian home-based care volunteers

At the Presbyterian Women's Gathering in July the PCUSA's International AIDS Ministries office will launch a new "Home-Based Care Wrap Project" to assist AIDS ministries in Africa.

The project is based on the long colorful skirts women wear in sub-Saharan Africa. The first wrap was designed by home-based care volunteers in Malawi. On the wrap (two meters of material) are depicted six different home-based care situations around a map of Africa. The border is a series of huts from South, East and Central Africa, Bible verses used by volunteers, and a red, white, blue and yellow border inspired by the patterned wall of a South Africa homestead.

The wraps will be used as incentives for people to donate \$200 to AIDS ministries through AIDS Crisis Overseas ECO #862706 or Home-Based Care ECO #051700. Donations can be made from Web page <http://www.pcusa.org/give/online/default.jsp>.

The Home-Based Care Kit Program, which provided basic home care supplies and training of volunteers, is being discontinued because the Malawian government has instituted a national program of providing supply kits. Although the PCUSA will no longer make these kits in the United States and ship them to Africa, it continues to fund

the training of volunteers to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of individuals and families with AIDS.

See <http://www.pcusa.org/aids-international/wrap-project.htm> for more information and a photo of one of the new wraps being used to carry a baby.

"THE WELL MINISTRY"

Reaching out to women trapped in Bangkok's sex industry

Named for the story in John 4 about Jesus' encounter at the well with the woman who had had many husbands, the Well Ministry in Bangkok, Thailand, was started by two graduates of the Bangkok Institute of Theology (BIT). It is reaching out to women trapped in Bangkok's notorious sex industry.

Every weekday morning Well Ministry participants engage in Bible study. The rest of the day is devoted to basic education-English and math, primarily-and a greeting-card business that provides job-skill development and income.

"It's fun to be with these gals," says Carol Fujii, PCUSA mission worker. "Their cards are exported to different churches in the United States or beyond, and the money goes back into helping these women make a living as well as grow in Christ. There's so much brokenness in their lives that it takes a long time.

"What's neat is that, when one person comes to Christ, then they want to share Jesus with their neighbor or another girlfriend in the bar. And they have relatives. So it's through that one that many are affected." Read more about Leith and Carol Fujii's ministry at BIT at <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2006/06193.htm>.

SUPPORT SOUGHT FOR PCUSA MISSION WORKERS

An opportunity for "second mile" giving

A generous bequest from a loyal Presbyterian woman who died 40 years ago has solved the immediate crisis for mission worker support, but funding solutions for the long term are still needed. One way to help is to contribute to Second Mile Missionary Support ECO (#132192). Marian McClure, WMD director, calls this "the single most helpful way to strengthen the capacity to support the people already serving in Christ's name."

Contributions to ECO #132192 can be made online at <http://www.pcusa.org/wmd/giving.htm>.

Meanwhile the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands is seeking funds for mission workers who will respond to new needs in mission around the world. For information visit www.pcusa.org/joiningheartsandhands.

AND MORE . . .

- Drought in the Horn of Africa. The people of Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya are facing the worst drought in decades. Having already lost almost half of their livestock, many are desperate for food and water. The potential famine puts the entire population, especially children, at risk for malnutrition, starvation, measles and diarrhea. Read more about the drought conditions in Kenya in a letter from Lyle and Terry Dykstra's at http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/dykstral/dykstral_0602.htm and a letter from Stan and Mia Topple at http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/letters/topples/topples_0603.htm.

- Marie ("Breezy") Lusted was honored in Addis Ababa in April. A sizeable Anuak community gathered to mark and celebrate the 50th anniversary of her arrival in Ethiopia. PCUSA mission workers Anne and John Wheeler-Waddell wrote: "What a testament the day was to Breezy's faithfulness, the gospel's life-giving power, and the Anuak community's faith amidst great adversity in recent years." Breezy Lusted's Scripture translation work was featured in the Winter 2005 issue of Highlights, available for download from <http://www.pcusa.org/wmd/newsarchive.htm#articles>.