

Update on Monster Asia Quake Project

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them . . . Genesis 6:13

As a CAM delegation, we (David Troyer, Philip Troyer, and Ralph Flory) recently visited Asia to assess the December 26 tsunami results. While touring devastated areas in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, the above scripture came to mind.

Some of the most horrific scenes were in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, where we saw bodies lying along the streets and a truckload of corpses arriving at a mass grave outside the airport. The sights and smells were overwhelming; the depth of destruction unfathomable. We could leave again, but the traumatized survivors—many who lost family, friends, home, and livelihood—need to carry on.

From the earthquake-generated tsunami, huge waves (up to 80 feet high) had swept away everything in their path. Whole villages disappeared. A man we met at the airport said he is one of only 20 survivors in his village of 500 people. In Banda Aceh, where large boats were swept into the middle of the city, all the air traffic controllers except one were killed. An estimated 60,000-70,000 people died in that city alone.

In Sri Lanka, the damage is less than in Indonesia but still enormous. We were moved greatly to see where 1,500 people perished when the monster waves swept a passenger train off the tracks.



When the CAM delegation met this lady in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, she was idly cleaning debris off the smashed vehicle. Her brother seemed somewhat dazed and didn't say much, while she described how her sister's family ran into the house in the background to escape the water and all drowned there.

The published death toll of the Monster Asia Quake is now over 220,000, making it one of the worst natural disasters in recent history. As much of the rubble along the 20,000 miles of coastline affected by the tsunami has not yet been cleared, the toll will undoubtedly go much higher.

CAM's plans:

CAM spent \$75,000 on the initial emergency phase (food, water, medicines, and emergency shelter), which will soon be over. Through reliable Christian contacts on the ground, we now plan to focus on helping hundreds of families in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India get back on their feet again. The cost per family will vary because of differences in losses, but we estimate an average of \$1000 each. The number of families helped—probably mostly in Indonesia—will depend on the amount of funds received.

Lord willing, we will also translate, print, and distribute 250,000 copies of CAM's *25 Favorite Stories from the Bible* in the Indonesian language.

To work alongside our partners and to assure proper integrity and accountability, we hope to place several CAM representatives in-country for the duration of the project. There may be opportunities for specially selected volunteers to go to Indonesia to help clean up and reconstruct. The situation there, however, is unpredictable, difficult, and potentially hostile. It is a part of the world with extremist Muslim groups and very little Christian witness. With this tragic event, the local churches sense a unique opportunity for the light of the Gospel to shine into dark corners where it has not penetrated before.

Thank-you to each who has contributed to the **Monster Asia Quake** project! If you wish to make a donation, please use the enclosed contribution coupon. We also feel a great need for your prayers for those involved in this project. It is our hope and prayer that God may be glorified and His kingdom furthered.

God bless you!

David N. Troyer, Philip Troyer, Ralph Flory
January 2005