

## God is speaking to Indonesia!

By Willem Hekman, HMK representative in Indonesia.

I recently visited Banda Aceh where the tsunami waves rolled ashore and destroyed a city of several hundred thousand people. There are now 220.000 dead and missing. The entire downtown and business center are completely demolished. First the earthquake hit the town and sandwiched many business buildings than about 20 minutes later the tsunami waves hit. The situation is indescribable. **It can only be compared to Hiroshima after the atom bomb was dropped on that city.** All the people of the down town and business center are either dead and the remaining ones have fled to other areas mainly Medan. Almost the entire Chinese population is in Medan that is those who survived the onslaught of Tsunami. (In two days from writing this message I am leaving for Medan to distribute emergency help and Bibles to them). It seemed everything is paralyzed. There are dead bodies everywhere and the odor is very strong. The Red Cross people collect the bodies in plastic sacks and these are buried in mass graves. Some coastal towns have recorded that 80% of the populations died. We saw dead bodies all along the road. Large fishing boats were thrown into the middle of the city by the powerful waves. Electric generators weighing 3 tons were thrown around by the waves and moved several kilometers. The same with cars, trucks and heavy equipment. The initial waves covered trees of 30 meters high.

Near the ocean there was a heavy populated area. Not a house is left standing with the exception of a large mosque. The thousands of houses were broken into little pieces and thrown into the city several kilometers from shore. The force of the waves is unbelievable. Our host in Aceh was Pastor Chandra of the Pentecostal Church. He himself was miraculously saved by being thrown into a tree. His body bruised and beaten up and he was in the hospital in Medan for 5 days. He had returned to Banda Aceh to receive us and show us the devastation. We are now working with Pastor Chandra assisting with emergency help to the Chinese Christians who lost everything.

There are approximately 700 Christians in the city of Banda Aceh. Most of these are Chinese and Batak people from Sumatra. There are 3 churches which have buildings, a Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Methodist. The buildings are intact but much equipment lost because the water was up to the ceiling. There are other congregations such as Pentecostal and Presbyterian that use commercial building for a place to worship. Pastor Chandra's house and church were demolished.

We may be able to buy some land and build a Christian school. Pastor Chandra is looking into this. This is a long term project. Another long term project is to rebuild a house for Pastor Chandra and place for worship. Our initial help is to rent a place for a year for worship services under leadership of Pastor Chandra.

This Tsunami was caused by a 9.0 earthquake. Recently we did a study at the church I pastor, Calvary Life Fellowship of earthquakes in the Bible. Here follows the list of these quakes and its purpose :

**At Mt Sinai** in Exodus 19:18, when God met with Moses and issued the 10 Commandments to the Israelites.

**At Kadesh in the desert** in Numbers 16:31. God caused an earthquake to split open the earth and Korah and his 250 companions were swallowed up as punishment from God for their rebellion against Moses.

**At Philistine country** in 1 Samuel 14:15 when God sent an earthquake to cause panic among the enemies of Israel and they ended up killing each other with the sword.

**At Mount Carmel** in Israel in 1 Kings 19:11 in preparation for the Lord's meeting with the prophet Elijah.

**During the reign of Uzziah**, king of Judah in Amos 1:1. He reigned in Jerusalem for 52 years and did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. But in his old age he disobeyed the Lord and God punished him with leprosy until he died. God sent earthquakes to warn His people.

**At the death of the Lord Jesus Christ** in Matthew 27:51, the earth shook and the rocks split. This convinced the Roman soldiers that Jesus was the Son of God.

**At the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ** in Matthew 28:2 when God raised Jesus from the dead. A demonstration of God's power.

**At Philippi** in Acts 16:26, when Paul and Silas were freed from prison. God caused a violent earthquake shaking the foundations of the prison and opening all the prison doors.

**As a sign of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 24:3-7. Revelation 11: 13, 19. There will be earthquake in various places. At that time a voice from heaven will call out the believers saying to them "Come up here". In verse 12 we read that the believers will go up to heaven in a cloud, while the enemies of the Gospel are watching. This will be the surprise of the ages! The angels will call the believers, the trumpet will sound and the dead in Christ will rise from the dead. After that we who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. We need to encourage each other with these promises in His word.

**As an indication of God's wrath against sin and unbelief** in Revelation 16:18-21, and is related to battle of Armageddon. Here we have a description of the most severe earthquake ever on this earth and it is the beginning of the end. This earthquake will be even more severe than the recent earthquake of 9.0 in the Indian ocean causing the

Tsunami. The great city of Jerusalem will be split into three parts and the cities of all nations will collapse. The islands and even the mountains will disappear. The whole topography of the earth will change. Hailstones of a hundred pounds each will fall upon men. The survivors will curse God instead of repenting.

**So earthquakes are a sign from almighty God of His power, His presence with us, His condemnation against sin and a sign that His return is near. God has been speaking to Indonesia loud and clear. His message is to repent from sin and receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.**

As believers we need to pay attention to what God is doing and what He is going to do. It is a time of commitment to His will and His plans. It is a time of repentance from sin and a cause for holy living, preparation for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and sharing the Way of Salvation to old and young.

God protected the believers in Meulaboh.

We know that 80% of the town of Meulaboh in Aceh was destroyed by the Tsunami waves and 80% of the people also died. This is one of the towns that was hit the hardest in the province of Aceh in Indonesia.

But there is a fantastic testimony from Meulaboh. In that town live about 400 Christians. They wanted to celebrate Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup> but were not allowed to do so by the Muslims of Meulaboh. They were told if they wanted to celebrate Christmas they needed to go outside the city of Meulaboh on a hill and there celebrate Christmas.

Because the Christians desired to celebrate Christmas the 400 believers left the city on December 25<sup>th</sup> and after they celebrated Christmas they stayed overnight on the hill. As we all know the morning of December 26 there was the earthquake followed by the Tsunami waves destroying most of the city of Meulaboh and thousands were killed. The 400 believers were on the mountain and were all saved from destruction.

Now the Muslims of Meulaboh are saying that the God of the Christians punished us for forbidding the Christians from celebrating Christmas in the city. Others are questioning why so many Muslims died while not even one of the Christians died there.

Had the Christians insisted on their rights to celebrate Christmas in the city, they would have all died. But because they humbled themselves and followed the advice of the Muslims they all were spared destruction and can now testify of God's marvelous protection.

This is a testimony of the grace of God and the fact that as believers we have no rights in the world. Our right is come before God and commit our lives to Him. Our right is kneeling down before the Lord almighty and commit our ways to Him. He is our Father and is very capable to care for His children. Praise the Name of the Lord.

Another area affected is the Island of Nias where about 400 houses of believers were destroyed. We have started with the help of HMK to rebuild a bridge and houses. A few days after the destruction a representative of HMK was in Nias distributing 2800 sheets of aluminum roofing so that the families could build a simple shelter and not get wet from the rain. Also we are providing emergency help to the families who have lost everything. Each family receives \$130 to purchase cooking equipment. So it is a privilege to offer help in the Name of Jesus remembering the words of our Lord in Matthew 25:45, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."