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Pray with Indonesia on Sunday, October 28, 2018

BY [JOHN CAMPBELL-NELSON](#) ON OCTOBER 22, 2018

Lectionary Selection: Mark 10:46-52

Prayers for Indonesia:

Yesus, Son of God, have mercy on the people of Indonesia. Tens of thousands are grieving and homeless after the earthquakes and tsunamis on the islands of Lombok and Sulawesi. Thousands are still missing, and their families can only trust that their loved ones have found shelter in Your mercy. As Muslims and Christians, Hindus and Buddhists face a common grief, may they rediscover their common bonds of humanity as well. Calm this troubled earth, calm our hearts, that we may rebuild and start life again in hope. Amen.

Mission Stewardship Moment from Indonesia:

Some years ago as I was leading worship in a village congregation I looked down from the pulpit to see a woman crawl into the church on her hands and knees and lift herself up onto one of the back benches. She crawled out again during the closing hymn. After worship, I asked the elders about her, and they explained: “She was born with stunted legs”—and here they lowered their voices to a whisper: “Her family says it’s a punishment, because before they became Christians they worshipped a crocodile, so she has to crawl around like one. She comes every Sunday just like that.”

Nearly every village has a small diffable population who are hidden away because their families are ashamed. This woman was unusual because she was brave enough to face the stares and whispers, to crawl through the dusty village streets to worship.

After witnessing partner church events in which diffable members were full participants, Evangelical Christian Church of West Timor’s Theology Commission conducted a series of dialogues on the twisted theology that has kept the differently-abled in the shadows, opening a space for them to bring their witness to the church that had ignored them for so long, and replacing the whispers of shame with a clear call for justice. Signs of growing awareness include inclusion of diffable issues in the seminary curriculum and a move toward more accessible church buildings.

Jesus asked Bartimeus, “What would you have me do for you?” The church is at last listening for the answer.

(Prayer and Mission Moment by John Campbell-Nelson)

Global Ministries Mission Co-worker in Indonesia:

John Campbell-Nelson serves the Evangelical Christian Church of West Timor. His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, WOC, OGHS, and your special gifts.

More information on Indonesia:

<https://www.globalministries.org/indonesia>



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Indonesia

Indonesia is the fourth most populous nation in the world, with both the world's largest Muslim population and largest number of Protestant Christians in Asia. The current economic crisis is affecting every Indonesian, causing further delays in access to clean water and health care, etc. Unemployment and food prices are rising, and this will mean that fewer children will go to school, violence caused by economic and political uncertainty will increase, and churches will continue to suffer for lack of resources.

Christian dialogue with Muslims, Hindus and indigenous faiths is an important part of the church's ministry in all parts of Indonesia. Since 1998, misunderstanding, careless derisive comments, and criticism from one religious group against another have sparked riots, church and mosque burnings, and mass killings. Religious leaders have tried to encourage all sides to end the violence, and to enter into discussions through meetings, seminars, and workshops that will foster understanding among peoples of faith.

Pray for: Those affected by conflict, who have lost homes, family members, livelihood, and being part of a community. Pray that they hold on to hope, and that they will feel God's presence in each other, and in those who give them comfort. May God open our eyes to the suffering of people whom we see only in pictures, but to whom we are connected through our common humanity, created in God's image.

Church leaders in Indonesia, that they will keep building bridges among Christians in that region, and between Christians and their neighbors of other faiths. We pray for the spirit of unity and grace to work among the leaders of Indonesia as they build a truly democratic system of government which will bring peace and justice throughout the nation.

Population (2014 est) – 253,609,643

Area – 1,184,000 mi

Capital – Jakarta

Ethnic Background:

Javanese – 40.1%

Sundanese – 15.5%

Malay – 3.7%

Batak – 3.6%

Madurese – 3%

Betawi – 2.9%

Minangkabau – 2.7%

Buginese – 2.7%

Bantenese – 2%

Banjarese – 1.7%

Balinese – 1.7%

Acehnese – 1.4%

Dayak – 1.4%

Sasak – 1.3%

Chinese – 1.2%

Other – 15%

Exports – oil and gas, electrical appliances, plywood, textiles, rubber

Imports – machinery and equipment, chemicals, fuels, foodstuffs

Life Expectancy (2014 est) – M 70 years F 75 years

Infant Mortality (2014 est) – 25.16 deaths/1,000 live births

Adult Illiteracy Rate – 7.2%