



GIDI OUTREACH IN ACEH

Following the Earthquake and Tsunami on 26th Dec. 2004 which devastated large areas including the extreme Western Province of Indonesia, Nangroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) the Department of Evangelism of GIDI made moves to get a team together to send to help. They decided to concentrate their efforts in the city of Danda Aceh, in the districts of Lamdingin and Lambura.

compounded by the political and religious tensions in the area.

GIDI is committed to the ongoing needs there and this week (April 17th) Lipyus Biniluk is visiting again to make an assessment and help the team with future planning.

The team consists of 11 people mostly from Papua but also several from our churches in Java and Sumatra. They report that the team have been concentrating initially on

1. Comforting and motivating the survivors.
2. Showing God's love by helping to clear rubble and mud from houses and schools.
3. Generally try to lessen the burdens the people are bearing.
4. Attempt to gain acceptance with the people and, if God opens the door, to establish an evangelistic post.

By all reports, the team there have gained good acceptance as they have been willing to work with their hands, get alongside the people and so forth. Although very different in background, the Papuans and the Acehenese have many things in common. They have been given hospitality by religious leaders and some orphans have linked themselves to the team.

Because of the nature and enormity of the disaster the logistics have been overwhelming in the co-ordinating of aid. This has been

Needs to be remembered are, finances, health of the team, opportunities to show the love of Christ and that building of good relationships would continue. Also for opportunities to witness.

(Most of this information has been provided by Rev. Otto Kobak, head of the Evangelistic Department of GIDI. GIDI has many more unreached areas where they have placed and still support evangelists in Papua and outside Papua.) ■

Sue Trenier



The GIDI team are working together with other denominations at the request of the Christian church in Aceh as this is the most acceptable way to work rather than have individual groups working in ways that could jeopardise the witness there.

