



Bridge of Hope Indonesia News

Bridge of Hope
Australian Support Team
Keeping you informed

May 2011

Coordinator:

Geoff Osborne geoff@geoffosborne.com.au

Admin Support:

Ros Harvey rbsharvey@gmail.com

Bridge of Hope (BoH) continues to work hard to fulfil its mission of serving the poor in East Indonesia. There is also an Australian Support Team who continue to meet every three weeks in Sydney to pray and seek God about the direction of Bridge of Hope. In addition to the reports you receive from CNEC (our fundraising partner), we felt it was time to get in touch with you directly to give you more comprehensive updates.

In this issue, we will be telling you about what's been happening, personal stories from the field, trips being planned, and current prayer and praise points.

SNAPSHOT OF CURRENT POSITION

- There are now four offices,
 1. **Manado**
 2. **Bitung** (the main port for North Sulawesi, almost due east of Manado)
 3. **Minahasa** (a very poor area in the highlands to the south east of Manado)
 4. **Tobelo** in the Maluka Islands (from where many of the refugees fled in 2000-2001)

These offices have now served more than **15,000 clients** in our Micro Enterprise Development program.

There is approximately 40 staff working with BoH.

- We also have several special purpose projects for the benefit of BoH clients and the neighbouring communities. Such Projects include the Somompo library and school on the Manado garbage dump, fishing boats, assisting in home building for refugees whose camp was destroyed by fire; and the development of cottage industries/ farming produce.
- We have a new CEO, Yanto Sutianto, who has a holistic heart for transformation....physical and spiritual.



Yanto in orange (almost obscured), with staff in Manado, & Belrose Team Sept.2010

PARTNERING

Manly / Manado (2005-2009)

An initiative, inspired by Jim Goddard and championed by the local churches, involved the broader Manly community (both domestically and commercially) to partner with the Manado branches of Bridge of Hope and Compassion. This proved to be a highly successful partnership as well as providing funds for BoH projects. It is known simply as *Manly-Manado*.

Tamworth / Tobelo

An Anglican Church in Tamworth has forged a relationship with the branch in Tobelo and a trip to Tobelo is currently planned for July 2011.

Belrose / Bitung

In response to the above "alphabetical relationships", i.e. Manly-Manado and Tamworth-Tobelo, a semi-humorous comment was made to St Stephens, Belrose, which had a long relationship with BoH, that they may care to partner with the Bitung office. This "inspired" suggestion was adopted by St Stephens, members of whom now regularly visit and constantly encourage and support the Bitung team. Recently, a team went over to encourage

and support small business owners in the development of their businesses. This trip was a great success and many new ideas are being implemented with positive results.

Ruach Ministries / Manado

Ruach Ministries, based on the Northern Beaches, are currently working towards establishing a partnership with the Manado office of BoH (much like the Belrose / Bitung partnership mentioned above).

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH BRIDGE OF HOPE Trips being planned in 2011

- Team from Ruach visiting Manado in May 2011 to support and encourage the Bridge of Hope team.
- Team from Tamworth visiting Tobelo in July 2011 to re-invigorate the connection.
- Belrose Team visiting Bitung in Sept. 2011, taking staff on 2-day retreat for encouragement and personal development.

PRAYER POINTS

Restructuring - BoH expanded rapidly up to the GFC but then funding shortages have not only hampered growth but brought about the need to restructure to provide efficiencies in operation. Various approaches are under review so please pray for wisdom for Yanto and the Board in these proceedings.

Planning - Also please pray for the planning of cottage industry and farming cooperative initiatives, for an awareness of all relevant issues and sensitivity to cultural differences.

If you would like any further information about any of the issues covered in our newsletters please feel free to contact us by email info@bridgeofhope.org.au or check out the website www.bridgeofhope.org.au.

WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT

To keep you fully informed of the exciting things God is doing through Bridge of Hope we have decided to send out this newsletter to you a few times a year.

Your name has been included because of your previous interest in and support of Bridge of Hope, and we are very thankful for the role you have played. You may also have some friends and colleagues who may also like to receive this Newsletter, and we would appreciate if you could email us their contact details (with their permission) to info@bridgeofhope.org.au. The names and details will be kept private and used only for Bridge of Hope communications.

(If you do not wish to receive further information about Bridge of Hope, please email us at info@bridgeofhope.org.au and we will take you off the mailing list.)

If you would like to donate to the work of Bridge of Hope, please go to the Bridge of Hope website

www.bridgeofhope.org.au

and follow the links under 'How to Donate'.

Alternatively, fill out the attached donation slip and return to us.

We appreciate your ongoing support of this vital work in Indonesia.

On next page

Read how Welly Sondakh's life has changed since receiving support from Bridge of Hope.



The bridge
to a better future



MY STORY

Welly Sondakh (Bitung)

(Note: Welly's story has been relayed to us by an Indonesian BoH worker. The English is not always correct, however we've chosen not to alter it to maintain its character & feel).



The sound of a sewing machine broke the silence of a modest house in the corner of the city of Bitung. A 56 year old man was engrossed in completing sewing pieces of cloth to make a shirt. On hangers a few pieces of finished clothes were ready to be redeemed. Beside him a woman—almost the same of his age—was busy helping fix the shirt buttons. Simple, calm and charismatic, Welly Sondakh or better known as Om Welly (Uncle Welly), is always available to anyone in need of his service. He has been doing this profession for 15 years. Despite the higher necessities of life, he remains faithful to run his business to support his wife and children. As a member of the local community, Om Welly is highly regarded. Whenever problems occur among the neighbours, he appears as a mediator to reconcile them. Apart from being a tailor, a husband to Elsy Mokolensang, and a father of two children, Welly is engaged in church ministry very actively. The words he speaks out always contains the live testimony displaying God's love in and through his life. He is the congregation coordinator of his church.

Om Welly started his business 15 years ago using a simple sewing machine. Previously he started the business in the city of Manado until moving to Bitung 13 years ago.

His expectation is that his business will run better in Bitung. The first time he came to Bitung, he and his family did not have any fixed residence. They move from one rented house to another,

and he experienced it for years. However, their hard work and patience doing his business, gradually, God blesses him and provided housing for his family. The land where the house stands has become his own.

August 2010 Om Welly and his neighbours who have different business, joined with Bitung Bridge of Hope, they formed a group called "Pancaran Kasih," (Outpouring of love). The rest of loan group members entrusted Om Welly as treasurer of the group.

As a group member receiving capital loan, Om Welly feels a significant increase in his business. The tailor specializing in shirt and suit said that he needs Rp300,000 (A\$34) for monthly capital. It is used to buy thread and clothing accessories. From his business Om Welly gets a profit of Rp2 million (\$A225) every month. The first cycle loan of Rp700,000 (A\$80) was used for his sewing business capital, some of it used for his wife's business selling clothes and other goods. It was also used towards buying a freezer for making ice. He said that if they just rely on one type of business, they cannot meet the daily needs.



His dream is to buy a hemming machine in order to support his sewing business. Above all he is very grateful to become the part of the loan group supported by Bridge of Hope for his business so that he can also help other people.

YES, I want to help transform a life through Bridge of Hope

Mr Mrs Ms Miss Rev Dr Other

First Name

Last Name

Address

Suburb

StatePostcode

Email

Phone (hm).....(wk/mob).....

Please accept my donation of \$.....

monthly yearly or once only to be used to support:

1. Micro business loans and support program
2. Capital development project.....YOUR CHOICE
3. Area of greatest need

I raised these funds atCOMMUNITY EVENT NAME

I require a tax deductible receiptNAME REQUIRED

All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible. This is provided by 

Payment Options

1. Please debit my VISA card MasterCard Bankcard

Credit card number _____

Expiry date ____ / ____FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Name on card.....

Card holder's signature.....

Phone: Rec'd by..... Date.....Time.....

2. I enclose a cheque payable to: *CNDCAF (Bridge of Hope)*

Please send me regular detailed reports on Bridge of Hope

Please send me further information on CNEC Partners International

Please complete & return to: Bridge of Hope, PO Box 45, Seaforth, NSW 2092

Transform
a life



w: bridgeofhope.org.au
e: info@bridgeofhope.org.au