

Water for Indonesia

His name is Cornelius Neno. Like many of us, he's a parent, a spouse. He is trying to take care of his family despite tough circumstances.

West Timor, Indonesia is one of the driest spots in all Asia. In the arid heat, Cornelius's family walks 3 miles – each way – just to collect water for their daily needs.

Can you imagine? Having to walk 3 miles just to be able to help your kids have something to drink? Walking the distance from (insert two local spots about 3 miles apart) to cook, clean, or wash your hands?

Collecting water kept his children from attending school. Lack of water kept his family hungry - they could only carry enough water for cooking and drinking, leaving no water for gardening. Lack of water made his family sick – there was no water available for personal hygiene, which led to frequent illness. Cornelius and his family were caught in cycle of poverty and hunger that seemed impossible to break.

Most of the world's poor don't have the time or water to grow their own vegetables, so they must purchase their food. Many cobble together some kind of living, and most of their income is spent just trying to put a at least one meal on the table each day. Some days there is nothing to eat. Never do they see the bounty and variety that we are blessed to see on our family table.

In Deuteronomy, we hear: "Be strong, be bold, for your God is going with you." Be strong. Be bold. If we want a lasting change – we have to take heroic steps! And as people of faith and hope, we can take valiant strides and with God's grace to make the world a better place.

In September 2000, world leaders came together at United Nations Headquarters to adopt the Millennium Development Goals. Bold goals such as to cut in half the number of people in this world living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015. The target of reducing extreme poverty rates by half was met **five years ahead of the 2015 deadline** and the hunger reduction target is within reach!

Our congregation has been invited by Church World Service to take part in a CROP Project in Indonesia. We have been challenged to take heroic steps to insure that our brothers and sisters, like Cornelius, will not only see a drastic reduction in extreme hunger by the end of this year, but an end to hunger in our lifetime!

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We will be **AMBITIOUS**: We are going to raise \$5000 to provide a close-by water reservoir in a village in Indonesia. The village committee will develop the plan to build and maintain the reservoir, but we will provide the necessary sand, cement, tools and training. The result: a locally-managed source of water for consumption, personal hygiene, livestock and agriculture.

We will be **BRAVE**: This is something new for our congregation. We have done a CROP Walk – now we are going to try a CROP Project. We will bravely ask all of you, but you also need to reach out and ask all of your neighbors, co-workers, friends and distant relatives to help us change the world. If we are going to end hunger and poverty, it will take God's grace and every fearless one of you!

We will be **OUTRAGEOUS**: In addition to an offering on _____, we are going to host a _____ to raise funds (fashion show, karaoke night, bowl-a-thon, etc.) We will make a scene. In fact, if we meet our goal, _____ (Church Leader) will _____ (dye your hair, sport a jersey of a rival team, pie in the face, etc).

In the coming weeks, remember that while mothers and fathers in Indonesia (like Cornelius) pray for a way to feed their children, by God's grace, we are capable of being the answer to their prayer.