

Water for Indonesia

With Water We Grow

Scripture Foundation: Isaiah 30: 23-24 (NRSV)

He will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and grain, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. On that day your cattle will graze in broad pastures; and the oxen and donkeys that till the ground will eat silage, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork.

Story Foundation

Story of Cornelius Nero and his family (see Minute for Mission).

Connecting Story and Scripture

In communities across the United States, on any given weekend you can find a group of people lining up, ready to run a 5K race. For many of us, covering 3 miles is something we do to get our daily dose of exercise — but imagine if that was a one way trip to get water for our children to drink. That is the story of Cornelius Nero, in West Timor, Indonesia. Could you imagine having to run a 5K each time you wanted to cook? To wash your clothes? Or just to get something to drink?

“Just as water is the essence of all life, water is also the primary element in the life of a Christian, where the sacrament of Baptism marks the sacred source of the spiritual life” noted the Ecumenical Patriarch Batholomew, also known as the Green Patriarch, in his letter on water. But we often don’t treat it that way.

For most of us, getting ourselves, or our children, something to drink is as easy as turning on the water faucet. For many of us, supporting a small garden for our family requires us to hook up a hose. In the United States, green grass grows in the desert of Arizona. Just consider how remarkable that is for a moment. You can visit the state of Arizona, in a desert climate, and visit lush, green lawns. We have been incredibly blessed through technology, and an abundance of natural resources, to be able to create growth and vegetation in even the most arid of climates.

West Timor is one of the most arid climates in the world, prone to excessive drought. It is a place that understands just what a precious gift from God water is. Getting water to meet their daily needs takes enough work — without considering what it would take to have enough water to support agriculture.

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Combating hunger in West Timor requires an all hands on deck approach — including increasing access to clean and fresh water. With increased access to water, families no longer have to make the 3 mile trek — giving children the ability to go to school, a family the ability to grow a garden to feed themselves, and parents the ability to work to support their family.

We know water is a gift from God. One that nurtures all life. It is what makes the seed planted in the ground grow. It is a gift we can continue to increase access to all over the world.