

Monday 9th December

The purpose of the Rapid Intervention Network

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me... to bring good news to the poor; to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes.” Isaiah 61:1, 3

The Rapid Intervention Network (RIN) is a new initiative of Frontiers, designed to respond to crisis events across the Muslim world in a timely and purposeful way. This includes responding where there have been natural disasters or in conflict/post-conflict situations. Its intention is to bring much-needed relief and to demonstrate the love of God and his heart of compassion and restoration. Often crises give access to countries that were previously difficult to enter as believers. RIN hope to leave a lasting presence of the gospel through disciple-making teams made up of both the expat and local communities. Its vision is also to lay down seeds for movements of Muslims to Christ and to plant churches in the Muslim world in partnership with like-minded NGOs, Frontiers workers and Christian communities.



Its aim then is three-fold: to respond, pursue movements and work in partnership. Let's pray for each of these objectives and remember the many crisis areas around the world, many of which are in Muslim-majority nations.

Respond – Crisis-response requires many skills but perhaps the most important is a willingness to enter situations and circumstances that change quickly. A key skill is to adapt quickly and to recruit and train others who can help.

- Pray for the recruitment and formation of teams of the right men and women who have the training and skills needed for crisis-response and for open doors to enter closed regions.

Partnership - As RIN send crisis-response teams, they can mobilise local Christians to join and eventually lead the crisis-response for their regions. Crises do not discriminate, so Christians suffer alongside their Muslim neighbours.

- Pray that the national Christians in each of these crisis situations will become beacons of kindness of hope and take the courageous step of engaging with their Muslim neighbours.
- In regions with Christian populations and churches, please pray that the crisis event will also awaken the national church to become an instrument of healing and peace to their Muslim communities.

Movements - Catalysing national partners on the ground helps to form a lasting response beyond meeting the immediate urgent needs.

- Pray for training of national partners in disciple-making.
- Pray that physical needs will bring awareness of deep spiritual needs.
- Pray that RIN will be able to bring a coalition of responders who leave a physical and spiritual legacy that lasts.

Tuesday 10th December

Meeting practical needs

"I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles." Psalm 34:4-6

On August 2nd this year, West Java in Indonesia experienced a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. Many people were left anxious and fearful, having already suffered an earthquake in January 2018 and a tsunami in December 2018.



In the aftermath of this recent crisis, a team of doctors and counsellors organised an intervention response from 27th October to 30th October. It involved the combined efforts and contributions of expat workers, local Indonesian NGOs and several medical teams. They helped with infrastructure needs, medical and dental needs and trauma counselling. Each team member involved in this response effort was trained to lead discovery bible studies and looked for persons of peace to invite.

This project also involved installing radio transmitter boosters donated by a local relief organisation. The recent earthquake damaged satellite towers and prevented proper communication support during the crisis. The new boosters should increase the range of handheld radios to provide reliable back up for communication.

- Pray for a Godly legacy among the local Sunda and Javanese people as a result of the care and support they received through RIN and that the boosters provide a visible, lasting presence of support.
- Pray for spiritual needs to be met and healing from fear that has gripped these people.
- Pray for movements to Christ, many Discovery Bible studies and the growth of the Indonesian church, as believers step out in faith in practical ways to meet the needs of their Muslim neighbours.
- Pray for RIN to learn from this intervention and to develop even more effective practices going forward.

Wednesday 11th December

Not yet in Yemen

"He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him." Daniel 2:21-22

The situation for the Yemenis has been progressively declining over several years without an end in sight. Whilst the global concern for Yemen has been sporadic at best, the suffering of the everyday



Yemenis caught in the Muslim sectarian war has been unrelenting. Yemen has populations that are internally displaced (war refugees who have been displaced from their homes but are still within Yemen) and externally displaced refugees in neighbouring nations such as Somaliland. RIN does not yet have a presence within Yemen because of the level of violence. Several Frontiers teams and other expat teams who have been serving in the area for many years have also been displaced.

RIN need teams in the pipeline now, ready for entry into Yemen when an opportunity arises. They are trying to recruit teams that can be deployed to surrounding countries in the Arab Gulf or North Africa where they can study Arabic in preparation.

Praise God, there are hopeful signs for Yemeni refugees in a camp in Somaliland. In these very dark times, there is a small light as some of the refugees are studying the Scriptures together.

- There is a need for Arab-speaking teams in Somaliland to disciple the Yemenis. Pray that some of the expat team displaced from Yemen will rebuild their teams in Somaliland with the intention of beginning a network of disciple-makers for the Yemeni refugees.
- Pray for the recruitment of new teams ready to enter Yemen when there is an opening there.
- Let's pray for peace in Yemen and give thanks to God who is in control of all circumstances, and knows the needs of the Yemenis and His goodwill for them.
- Pray for a revelation and understanding of God's heart so that we can pray with great hope and faith.

Thursday 12th December

Becoming part of the community

"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." 2 Tim 2:1-2

The intention of Rapid Intervention Network is to bring long-lasting transformation to each community they have entered. As they seek to provide for the immediate needs of the people in the crisis regions, their job would be incomplete if they failed to bring the gospel message to those regions as well.

Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world. It has experienced some significant natural disasters, including volcanic explosions, tsunamis and earthquakes, such as the one we read about on Tuesday.

Sulawesi, an island in Indonesia, suffered a devastating 7.5 magnitude earthquake in September 2018 that triggered a devastating 3-metre high tsunami. Whole neighbourhoods were destroyed as the ground turned to liquid mud. More than 2,000 people are known to have died and 4,400 were seriously injured, according to the Indonesia disaster management agency. About 1.5 million people in Central Sulawesi were affected and about 68,000 houses were damaged or destroyed, leaving hundreds of thousands of people displaced.



Over a year later, there are still thousands in the area living in temporary shelters and struggling with fear. A

Frontiers team leader and his family from another part of Indonesia responded to the crisis and moved to Sulawesi to begin the work of disaster relief and to raise a team of disciple makers from local Christians to reach out to their Muslim neighbours.

Although the Christians in this region have also suffered, our hope is that Christians will shine through their good deeds and love for their neighbours, reflecting the suffering that Jesus also embraced to bring new life and the opportunity of transformation to many.

- Pray for the Frontiers team leader and his family as they bring hope and help to the people of Sulawesi. They began a health education and trauma counselling project in November. Pray for its success and that it will bless many families in the region.
- Pray that local Christians will share Christ's love with many families, that they will encounter men and women of peace who are hungry for truth and there will be open doors to their Muslim communities for the gospel message.
- Pray for the emergence of local leadership who will take over from the expat team in disciple-making.
- Pray for the multiplication of disciples and the raising of many faithful men and women among the Christians and Muslims of Sulawesi.

Friday 13th December

Open doors in Sudan

"Lift up your head, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in."
Psalm 24:7

After 30 years of rule under President Omar al Bashir, Sudan is facing a new dawn following his removal from office in April this year. There is now a transition government in place with a shared leadership between civilians and the military until a new election scheduled for 2022. There is a sense of hope that its people have not felt in a long time while under the oppressive government of the prior regime. Omar al Bashir committed countless atrocities against his own people for which the International Criminal Court indicted him.



During Bashir's rule, many foreign faith-based relief and development organisations were expelled. This included Frontiers teams who had to stop their work and leave. The new transition government is inviting these organisations to come back and work among its people. Sudan represents an open door but, just as the door opened very suddenly, it can also close just as quickly. Rapid Intervention Network is seeking to establish teams to enter with purpose, but also to

enter strategically, seeking to equip as many local leaders as possible in the quickly evolving political landscape of Sudan in case they are told to leave again.

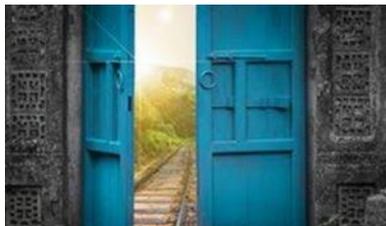
- Pray for the transition government to bring stability to Sudan, ruling with justice and seeking good for the welfare of all its people.
- Sudan has many different people groups who have not been engaged with the gospel. Pray for the bold work of discipleship-making and the sharing of the gospel by our Frontier teams and other organisations.
- RIN need to recruit men and women with various skills including medical professionals, engineers and teachers, as well as individuals with open hearts to work in this changing and difficult environment. Pray they will find people with these skills who already know Arabic and who can quickly engage as the window of foreign presence may be short.
- Let's believe that Sudan and all her people will recognise the good rule of God and desire nothing less and that the hope they have now will be strengthened by faith.

Saturday 14th December

Future

"But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:13-14

The reality of our world today is the increasing frequency of upheavals and disasters; both natural and man-made. In the Muslim world, both seem the norm rather than the exception. With so many of the world's 1.8 billion Muslims living in positions of poverty and vulnerability, the tragic impact of these upheavals is even more significant.



In 2019, in its first year of charter, Rapid Intervention Network has already been involved in multiple responses related to natural disasters. Going into next year, it sees many developing needs for future responses from events such as emerging political changes and wars. Many of these countries are closed to outside access at

the present time, but this may change for some. Rapid Intervention Network needs to build its capacity to mobilise lots of partnerships to bring together many types of skills including linguists, trainers, church-planters, engineers, health professionals and entrepreneurs, to name just a few. Diverse skills and the ability to deploy them quickly are essential for responding in these quickly

changing times. They want to be faithful to prepare as many people as possible to hear the gospel. God is using unlikely ways to open the doors of nations and hearts of people so they can hear the radical news of God's kingdom.

- RIN's current way of working is not designed for quick deployment in times of crisis. It needs to build this capacity to bring wise solutions that may be beyond its current thinking. Pray for creativity and innovation by RIN in the rapid mobilisation of people and resources in future situations.
- Pray for RIN to be able to gather all the resources it needs, so they can take full advantage of the many doors of ministry opportunity that will open in the days to come among the difficult to reach and unengaged Muslims peoples.
- Pray that the suffering experienced by many Muslim people today will have a purpose and a meaning. Christians alone may be the ones most equipped to bring meaning in suffering following the model of Jesus who brought life through His death. Please continue to pray for particular for Kurds who are suffering in Syria, that in this difficult time they will turn to Jesus in significant numbers and put their hope in Him.