



CEASEFIRE HAS BEEN DECLARED.
 – but 250,000 innocent children and
 their families have lost their homes...



Dear friend,

June 2009

I recently received an email message from Pastor Josiah Philip from Zion Church in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. His message brought tears to my eyes as its contents carried the weight of much sorrow and pain. He wrote:

Dear Friends,

It is with deep sadness that I write to inform you that four of our workers were struck down due to heavy shelling, and have gone to be with the Lord. They each leave behind a wife and child. We earnestly covet your prayers for these four widows and four fatherless children.

Thank you,

Josiah Philip, Pastor, Zion Church, Jaffna

I sympathize with their loss. As significant partners in the work of our Lord, the men and women serving refugees of the Sri Lankan conflict have freely given their lives in the name of Jesus. They do not stand for political systems or governments; they are simply serving families and children in desperate need.

These four faithful servants died while offering support and care to people who have been forced from their homes during the recent civil war between the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan government in north east Sri Lanka.

There is a long and convoluted history of violence between these cultures. For years, vicious battles have resulted in bloodshed.

Just a few weeks ago, the Sri Lankan government declared victory over Tamil forces. *But, close to 250,000 people, many of them children, continue to experience the devastating side effects of war. Displacement, poverty and fear have overtaken them.*

over please...

Please deliver a survival kit to a displaced family IMMEDIATELY...

Here is my gift of:

- \$30 to provide a survival kit for one person
- \$50 to provide a survival kit for one family
- \$100 to provide a survival kit for two families
- \$ _____ other

<Number>

<Name>

<Address 1>

<Address 2>

<City>, <Prov> <Postal Code> <country>

Payment options:

- VISA

Card #: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

I have enclosed a cheque made payable to ERDO.

For many weeks they were trapped in a narrow strip of land surrounded by sea and lagoons on three sides. Now they may return home, but many have no home to return to.

In the last three months, over 6,500 men, women and children have lost their lives and close to 200,000 civilians reside in camps for internally displaced people (IDP). Families were crowded into camps where necessities like food, water and basic medical supplies of anesthetic and antibiotics were inaccessible.

For more than 25 years civil war has disrupted the lives of thousands of people – many innocent children have been caught up in civil prejudice and unrelenting violence.

Pastor Josiah Philip lives in this region. His congregation and other ERDO partners are personally affected. In answer to Jesus' call to serve the poor, the sick and the lost, they are delivering essential food, blankets and survival kits into the refugee camps. They are also offering encouragement through spiritual guidance and counseling, helping those who have been displaced to overcome the trauma associated with war. They are not joining any political faction, they are only serving the homeless, displaced and suffering.

ERDO's partners are asking for help. We want to provide the funds to purchase more survival kits.

We need to act immediately!

Your help is greatly needed during this time. Children are orphaned, husbands and wives are widowed, and families are broken. ERDO is responding to this crisis by meeting needs for those displaced and injured by providing a Survival Kit.

Each kit includes essentials like clothing, toiletries, slippers, towels, bedding, a metal cup, plate and cooking pots for individuals residing at hospitals and displaced persons camps in Sri Lanka. **Your gift today of \$30 will provide a survival kit for one person. A gift of \$50 will provide a survival kit for an entire family.**

Thank you in advance for your support. In providing basic necessities to displaced people in Sri Lanka you are exemplifying the care that Jesus showed to the poor throughout his life. Please pray for peace for the families who have lost a parent, a spouse or child and for all those who have been left empty-handed and displaced due to civil conflict and war.

Sincerely,



Kelvin Honsinger
Executive Director, ERDO

P.S. There are many conflicting reports about this situation. Please pray for peace. The Church, with ERDO's help, is there to bring good news in these horrific times.



WWW.ERDO.CA

HERE ARE THE MANY OTHER WAYS **ERDO IS DOING GOOD:**

- Monthly \$29 child sponsorship provides education, food, and healthcare plus spiritual nurture
- Food aid and agricultural recovery, in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- Community building through economic development, clean water and sustainable agriculture
- Emergency aid, disaster mitigation and return to livelihood projects