

UEM Emergency Appeal

Emergency Funds for GKJW

SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE MT. SEMERU VOLCANO ERUPTION on 5 December

Information on GKJW

The East Java Christian Church (Gereja Kristen Jawi Watan GKJW) been a missionary church from the beginning. It grew from a spontaneous movement among the Javanese in the middle of the 19th century. In the 1830s groups of Javanese believers near Surabaya were brought into contact with the gospel by the activities of European lay people; the first baptism occurred in 1843. In the 1850s the Dutch mission (NZG) took over and started what it considered to be a necessarily long process of bringing the church to maturity. This process was concluded by the convening of the first synod in 1931.

The coming of the Japanese brought the end of missionary domination. During and after World War II the church went through hard times. After 1950 a slow but steady growth began, which peaked after the elimination of communism in 1965-1967. From the beginning, the GKJW has been a rural church; many congregations were founded by clearing forests and establishing Christian villages on the reclaimed land.

The GKJW has a number of hospitals, clinics, a small number of schools from elementary to senior high level and an orphanage. Pastors are trained at the theological school in Malang. The GKJW is connected with the Duta Wacana Christian University in Yogyakarta.

Since 1981 the GKJW (presbyterian-synodal organized church) has been in relationship with the United Evangelical Mission in Germany. It has partnership relations with the Protestant Church in the Netherlands, the Evangelical Church in Rhineland (Germany) and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The church has 171 congregations with about 135,000 members. 186 pastors are serving the local congregations in East Java.

Website: <https://gkjw.or.id/>

The concrete situation

On Saturday, 4 December, a first eruption of Mount Semeru occurred. About one dozen nearby villages were coated in volcano ash. A stream of lava flew towards the valley from the 3,676 metre high mountain, which is the highest mountain on Java island. According to the Disaster Control Agency of Indonesia and GKJW, nearly 3,000 houses and 38 schools were damaged. Up to now there are 22 persons who died, another 27 persons are still missed. At least 68 persons have severe burns according to the local civil defence and a further 56 persons have been rushed to hospital.

In terms of crucial infrastructure, an important bridge, the Gladak Perak bridge broke was also severed as a result of the Eruption. This bridge is a major connector between Malang and Lumajang Regencies.

Indonesia has around 130 active volcanoes. The island state lies on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire. Several tectonic plates collide there, so that earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur particularly frequently. Semeru is located in the Bromo-Tengger-Semeru National Park on Java. Mount Semeru has been increasingly active again since December 2020.

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What will be done? / Planned activities

In these two days, GKJW has been very busy arranging aid for the eruption of Mount Semeru victims in South Malang. Within two days, the Disaster Management Team of GKJW headed to the location.

They immediately built Logistics Command Posts, Public Kitchens, and organized volunteers from Malang City to help the victims. They have distributed food and tents from City of Malang. The entire congregation is asked to support by raising solidarity funds.

GKJW, together with Muslim congregations and organizations, took part in making refugee posts. Logistics Command Posts and Public Kitchens are at GKJW Pronojiwo church, Penanggal Village Hall, Sumberwuluh Village Hall, and Jarit Mosque.

Decision

The UEM has decided to grant 5,000.00 Euro as an emergency relief to immediately support the GKJW in its efforts to help.

Appeal

The Department for Asia appeals to the UEM member churches in Asia, Africa and Germany and the v. Bodelschwingh Foundation Bethel to contribute to this Emergency Appeal for supporting the UEM member church GKJW in its efforts to help the effected people.

Please pray for the situation to ease soon, for all those who are affected by the disaster, and for the success of GKJW's efforts to help.



Erecting a Logistics Command Post



Starting to supply food

Your contact persons at the United Evangelical Mission

For your questions please contact

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Bank details

Keyword for your donation: Volcano eruption East Java

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