

Rebuilding Homes and Lives in Sri Lanka After Tsunami

September 28, 2005

by Sonali Fiske

On December 26, 2004, the island of Sri Lanka suffered the worst disaster the country has ever seen. More than 40,000 people died in a single morning – from a tsunami so powerful it destroyed entire villages in less than an hour. One million people are still displaced. Ten months later many people are gradually rebuilding their lives, as best as they can.



Laying rebar in the construction of new homes in Polhena

LifeNets is providing housing and in-kind assistance to over 45 tsunami victims located on the southern shores of Sri Lanka. Located within the idyllic beach village of Polhena, our housing reconstruction project provides refuge for over 35 victims

who remain homeless. Five homes are now completed. In addition to providing housing, we have also launched several livelihood development efforts to provide necessary tools for self-sufficiency. One example is Sunil, a local welder, who is finally making a living. The raging tsunami washed away his home, workshop and every tool he owned. To add to their suffering, Sunil's

wife, Kusumali, lost her father and grandmother that fateful day. Amidst their grief, they are grateful that all four of their



A camera and supplies have helped Mrs. Yapa reestablish her photography business and support her family.

In this newsletter:

- Rebuilding Homes and Lives in Sri Lanka After Tsunami
- Another 40-Foot Container to Chernobyl
- Developing Nations Scholarship Program
- Matching Donations

young children survived. Sunil knew he had to start working again – just so he could provide rice and lentils for his family and send his kids to school. LifeNets purchased all the supplies needed for Sunil to restart his welding business and assist his village community. What's ahead for our project *(Please go to "Tsunami")*

Another 40-Foot Container Arrives in Chernobyl

by Tom Peine

"It really hurts me when I fall off the swing set onto the concrete."

That complaint won't be a problem now at the Revival Center in Chernihev, Ukraine. Our last container brought them enough special cushioned surface to cover the entire playground area at the Center. This is a big help for these children who suffer from central nervous system disorders caused by the Chernobyl disaster over 18 years ago. Easels, educational toys, chairs and medical supplies add to the comfort and

(Please go to "Chernobyl")



Unloading 40-foot container in Chernihev, Ukraine, in July

Special Event: \$3,800 Raised for the Developing Nations Scholarship Fund by ABC

For the fourth straight year, the Ambassador Bible Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, helped raise money for the LifeNets' Developing Nations Scholarship Fund.

An Asian dinner was followed by a baked goods auction. It raised the highest amount yet to help send 60 young people to universities in their home countries. We support students in Guatemala, El Salvador, Peru, Mexico, Moldova, Malawi and Zimbabwe. We also help teens finish high school in Mexico and Guatemala. Some villages only provide an eighth-grade education and to finish high school the



young person may have to move to another village and live with someone. We consider the scholarship program one of our best values as we give young people the education to have a respectable life-long career in their countries. This helps them become leaders and providers. For more information about our program, please go to <http://lifenets.org/scholarships>.



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How to Effortlessly Double or Triple your LifeNets Donation

Many companies will match their employees' and retirees' charitable contributions. Check with your personnel office, and they will provide the necessary forms and instructions. Then send LifeNets the completed form. Thank you very much!

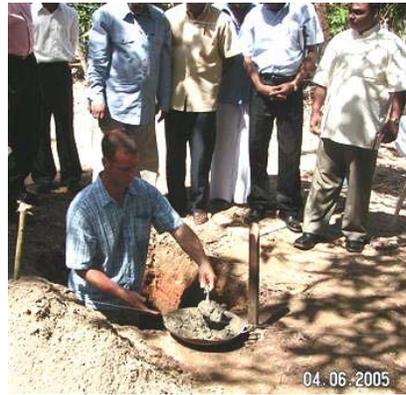
Donations to LifeNets are tax-deductible in the United States. If you would like for us to put a friend on the mailing list, please let us know via email at newsletter@lifenets.org or write us at the address above.



Welding tools and supplies delivered to Sunil. His livelihood is being restored.

Tsunami (cont'd)

in Sri Lanka? The inevitable answer to that remains: *housing*. With so many victims living in temporary 10- by 12-foot aluminum-roofed, wooden huts, enduring the tropical humidity, inadequate sanitation and a severe shortage of water, the response will remain *housing* for a very long time. It is for this reason that toward late October we will start phase two of our tsunami reconstruction project – by building more homes to help so many of my people who continue to survive the after-effects of the tsunami.



Kevin Fiske lays the official foundation stone for our construction project on April 6, 2005.

We wish to express deepest appreciation for a \$12,132.73 donation by the Church of God Seventh Day. At their General Conference meeting in Denver, Colorado, on July 7, 2005, they presented Victor Kubik a check for helping with reconstruction in Sri Lanka.

If you are interested in supporting our work

or would like to learn more about our Sri Lanka tsunami reconstruction project, please log on to our Web site at: www.lifenets.org/tsunami.

The writer, Sonali Fiske, is a native of Sri Lanka. Along with her husband, a carpenter-contractor, and 2-year-old son, Ethan, she traveled to Sri Lanka from California, USA, in March 2005 to facilitate LifeNets' tsunami reconstruction project.



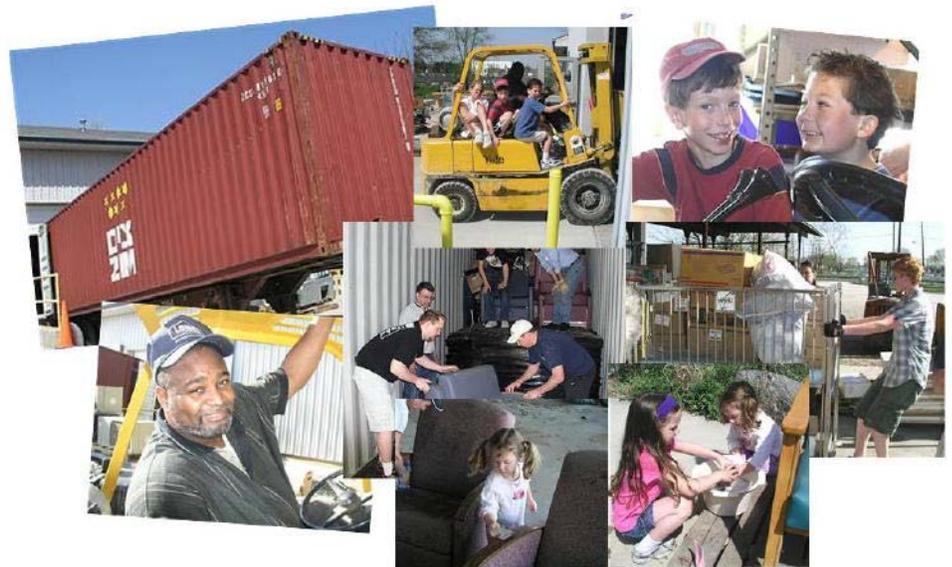
Miss Australia 2003, Shivauna Christina, along with film producer Massound interviewed our workers. Ethan Fiske is between them

Chernobyl (cont'd)

usefulness of the rehabilitation center. All of these things were on the hi-cube container sent this spring to the Ukraine.

In addition we included some "big ticket" items for use in the hospitals in Chernigov. Breast cancer detection is improved because we donated an operating mammogram X-ray machine. To help diagnose bone problems, we included a bone densitometer. A portable X-ray machine will allow analysis for tumors and broken bones. Having this as a portable machine will allow many facilities to utilize X-ray technology to improve diagnosis for the Chernigov medical community.

All this was possible through the generosity of many LifeNets contributors, volunteers and several major donors here in central Indiana. Please see the loading of the container here in Indiana and the receiving crew in the Ukraine. This is all



Loading the container in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 17, 2005.

real and tangible love as described in the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians. Thanks for everyone's effort.

For more information about our 10-year-long history of working in Chernobyl, please go to www.lifenets.org/chernobyl.