

Fundraising Dinner for Crisis Relief Services and Training

CREST+

CRISIS RELIEF SERVICES & TRAINING

Bringing God's love to the poor & needy in crisis

Souvenir Programme



Date | **16 November 2008 (Sunday)**

Time | **7.00pm to 10.00pm**

Venue | **Ballroom, Level 15
Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa
Persiaran Lagoon,
Bandar Sunway
46150 Petaling Jaya
Selangor Darul Ehsan**

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from*

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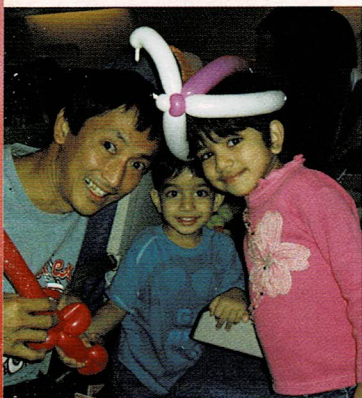
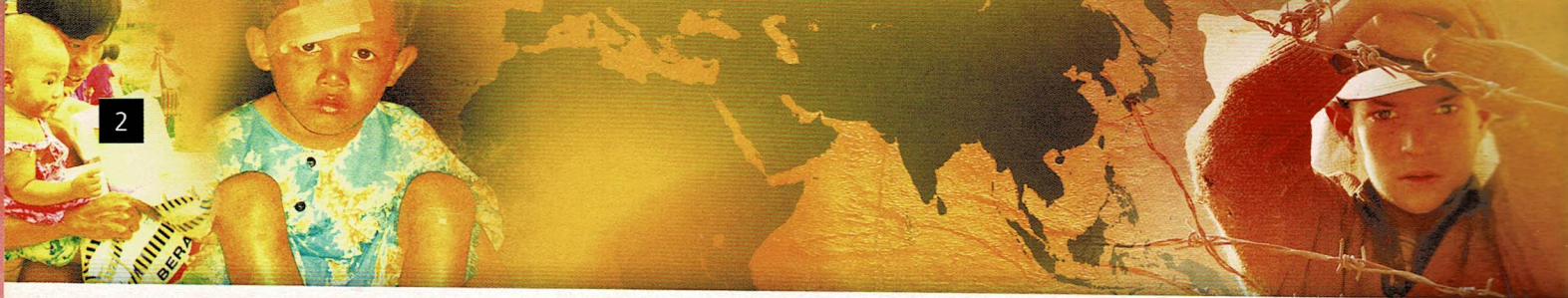
Programme

7.00pm	Arrival of Guests
7.35pm	Praise & Worship
7.50pm	Welcome Address by Dr Ng Swee Ming, Director of CREST
7.55pm	Thanksgiving Prayer by Senior Pastor Phua Seng Tiong, Sungei Way-Subang Methodist Church
8.00pm	Dinner
8.30pm	Special Presentation by Guest Artist, Ms Juwita Suwito
8.50pm	Friends of CREST
9.10pm	In Attendance, A Mediacorp Artist, Mr Gurmit Singh
9.50pm	Faith Draws
10.00pm	Benediction by Rt. Rev. Wong Foong Yang, Moderator of Gereja Presbyterian Malaysia

Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the following whose support and help have contributed to the success of our anniversary and fund raising dinner :

- Mr Gurmit Singh
- Ms Juwita Suwito
- Organizations and individuals who have donated generously in cash or kind and who have placed advertisements and congratulatory messages in the souvenir programme.
- All CREST volunteers and staff who have worked effortlessly to make this event a memorable one and many others who have helped in one way or another.



Who We Are

Crisis Relief Services & Training (CREST) is a non-profit Christian humanitarian organization. We are made up of Christians who share a desire to reach the poor and needy, refugees and victims of disasters with the love of God, through practical ways such as providing food, clothing, shelter, medicines, basic healthcare and trauma counseling.

Our Vision

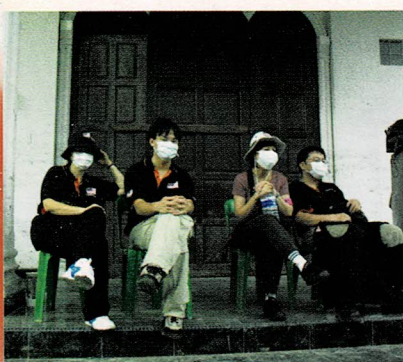
To have teams of volunteers armed with multi-disciplinary skills and God's love reaching the most desperate, needy and receptive people in the world. Like a reservist army, they are always ready to be deployed on short notice to do relief work for short durations of 1 to 2 weeks. The goal is to harness not only the spiritual but also the natural and secular skills of Christians of multi-disciplinary backgrounds. This way the whole church can be involved in missions in very down to earth and practical ways.

Our Mission

To train and equip the churches in disaster relief work; to invest in children who are the next generation of leaders; to build bridges into the nations by providing crisis relief, i.e., medicine, food, clothing, shelter, etc to the poor and needy, refugees and disaster victims.

Our Funding

CREST is a non-profit organization where funds for operations and projects come entirely from the contribution of individuals and organizations. Our funds are managed in the account of Crisis Relief Services & Training Berhad, a company limited by guarantee and constituted under the Companies Act 1965. All donations to CREST are duly receipted and accounted. Its accounts are audited annually and open for inspection.



Message from Executive Director



Dear Friends & Supporters of CREST,

2008 has been a year of great shakings affecting every segment of society. From the ice meltdown affecting global climatic conditions to the latest economic fall of some of the oldest and largest financial institutions, hearts of men tremble with fear. Everything that can be shaken is being shaken. The devastation from natural disasters and calamities was so great that it was noted that global economic losses from natural disasters reached USD4225 billion last year.

A decade ago, two American doctors, Mark and Betsy Neuenschwander heard and obeyed God to start a disaster relief school in Malaysia. Since those early days, CREST has been on the forefront sharing acts of compassion. For the last ten years, CREST has brought relief aid to over 20 countries. Globally the number of disaster is on the rise in recent years and we are committed to this worthy cause of bringing relief aids to those affected by disasters, regardless of their nationalities and religions. We are now more prepared and are also more than willing to empower you to go with us.

Looking at the past, despite so many hurdles and much risk in dangerous disaster zones, CREST went into the highways and byways of forgotten, trapped communities. Lives were touched and changed. There is a lot more which we can do to improve lives of the people. Presently we are exploring partnerships with like-minded organizations to bring sustainable community development. Many requests have also come from far and near for more training to equip and empower volunteers to be more effective in relief work.

CREST is a young organization and our strength is small. We are looking towards our God - the Author and Finisher of our faith, as we commit and rededicate ourselves to moving forward and walking in our destiny. The best is yet to be as we are on the threshold of a great millennium. Not by might, not by power but by the Holy Spirit, serving A God Of No Limitation.

With your help, contribution and support all these 10 years we have been able to go the extra mile. Please accept our gratitude and heartfelt thanks for your partnership.

Working together,
Lana Wong



Message from Drs. Mark and Betsy



Warmest Greetings to the Founders, Board, Staff, Volunteers, Deployment Teams and Patrons . . .

Congratulations on your decade of great success!

Being two full-time missionary physicians, it was such an honor and privilege to provide courses 12 to 13 years ago in Kuala Lumpur (Spiritual Skills for Professionals and Crisis-Disaster Evangelism), subsequently the inception and launching of CREST.

However, what is most special to us is the fact that all of you chose to "pick up the mantle" and organize your own evangelistic Disaster Response organization and training locally.

In addition, as in the parable of the four soils (Matthew 13:3-9), all of you named above in our greeting chose not to exhibit "withering" (3rd soil) in the hot sun of difficult times. You also overcame the choking (4th soil) of thorns persevering despite many attacks. As a team indeed, YOU ARE the GOOD SOIL (actually 5th soil) producing 100, 60, 30-fold increase!

We give glory to God and applause to you . . .

With tender love,

Drs. Mark and Betsy Neuenschwander

"Our Beginnings

In 1995, during the height of the Rwanda crisis, two American doctors, Drs. Mark & Betsy Neuenschwander of the International Health Services Foundation received a vision from God to raise up disaster relief teams across the world. They visited Malaysia and conducted 3 consecutive Disaster Relief Schools (DRS) in 1995, 1996 and 1997. From these training schools, a group of graduates received God's call to establish a disaster relief organization in Asia

On 3rd December 1998, CREST was birthed. Now, CREST serves in countries across Asia and takes on the mantle to train more relief volunteers in Malaysia and beyond."

Where We Served

Refugee Crisis :

Karen, Thailand 1998-2004
Kosovo 1999
Pakistan 2001
Sulawesi, Indonesia 2002
Afghanistan 2002

Epidemics :

Bukit Pelanduk, Malaysia 1999

Earthquake :

Taiwan 1999
Turkey 1999
India 2001
Bam, Iran 2004
Jogjakarta, Indonesia 2005
Pakistan 2005
Sichuan, China 2008

Tsunami :

Kuala Muda, Malaysia 2005
Aceh, Indonesia 2004-2005
Phuket, Thailand 2005
Sri Lanka 2005
Nias Island, Indonesia 2005

Migrant Workers :

Bangladeshis, Malaysia 2007
Indians, Malaysia 2008



Flood :

Johor, Malaysia 2004-2005
Bangladesh 2000-2007
Cambodia 2000-2003
Pakistan 2003

Landslide :

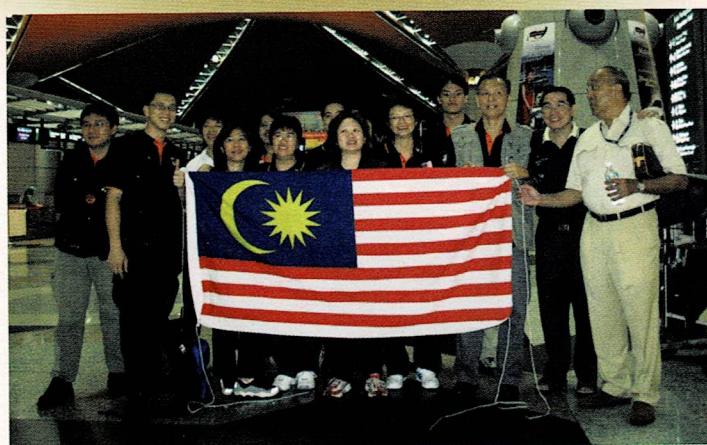
Pahang, Malaysia 2002
Iligan, Philippines 2007

Cyclone :

Bangladesh, 2007
Myanmar, 2008

Hurricane :

Honduras 1999





基督教长老会原道堂
LOGOS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

焚而不毀

欢迎参加原道堂属下各堂所的崇拜



原道堂圣安德烈教会
31, Jln Raja Chulan,
50200 Kuala Lumpur.

03-7982 1794
主日崇拜 2:00p.m.



原道堂文良港教会
12-2, Jln 9/23A, Medan Makmur,
Off Jln Usahawan, Setapak,
53200 Kuala Lumpur.

03-4149 9149
主日崇拜 10:00a.m.



原道堂蕉赖大同教会
59, Jln Dato Haji Harun,
Tmn Taynton View,
56000 Cheras, K. L.

03-9132 5998
主日崇拜 10:00a.m.



原道堂吧生路教会
30, Jln Jugra
Bt. 3½, Jln Kelang Lama,
58100 Kuala Lumpur.

03-7981 8295
主日崇拜 10:00a.m.



原道堂蒲种教会
1-1, Jln Puteri 2/5,
Bandar Puteri,
47100 Puchong, Selangor.

03-8060 1794, 012-299 2090
主日崇拜 9:30a.m.



原道堂白沙罗教会
49, Jln PJU 10/10E,
Saujana Damansara, P.J.,
47830 Selangor.

012-2345 270
主日崇拜 10:00a.m.



原道堂蕉赖首都镇教会
22-1, Jalan Damai Perdana 1/9A,
Bandar Damai Perdana,
Cheras, 56000 Kuala Lumpur.

03-9105 6326
主日崇拜 11:00a.m.



原道堂八打灵教会
45A, Jalan SS 24/8,
Tmn Megah, 47301
Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

03-7803 3604
主日崇拜 9:30a.m.



原道堂双溪龙教会
59-1, SL ¼,
Bandar Sg. Long,
43000 Kajang, Selangor.

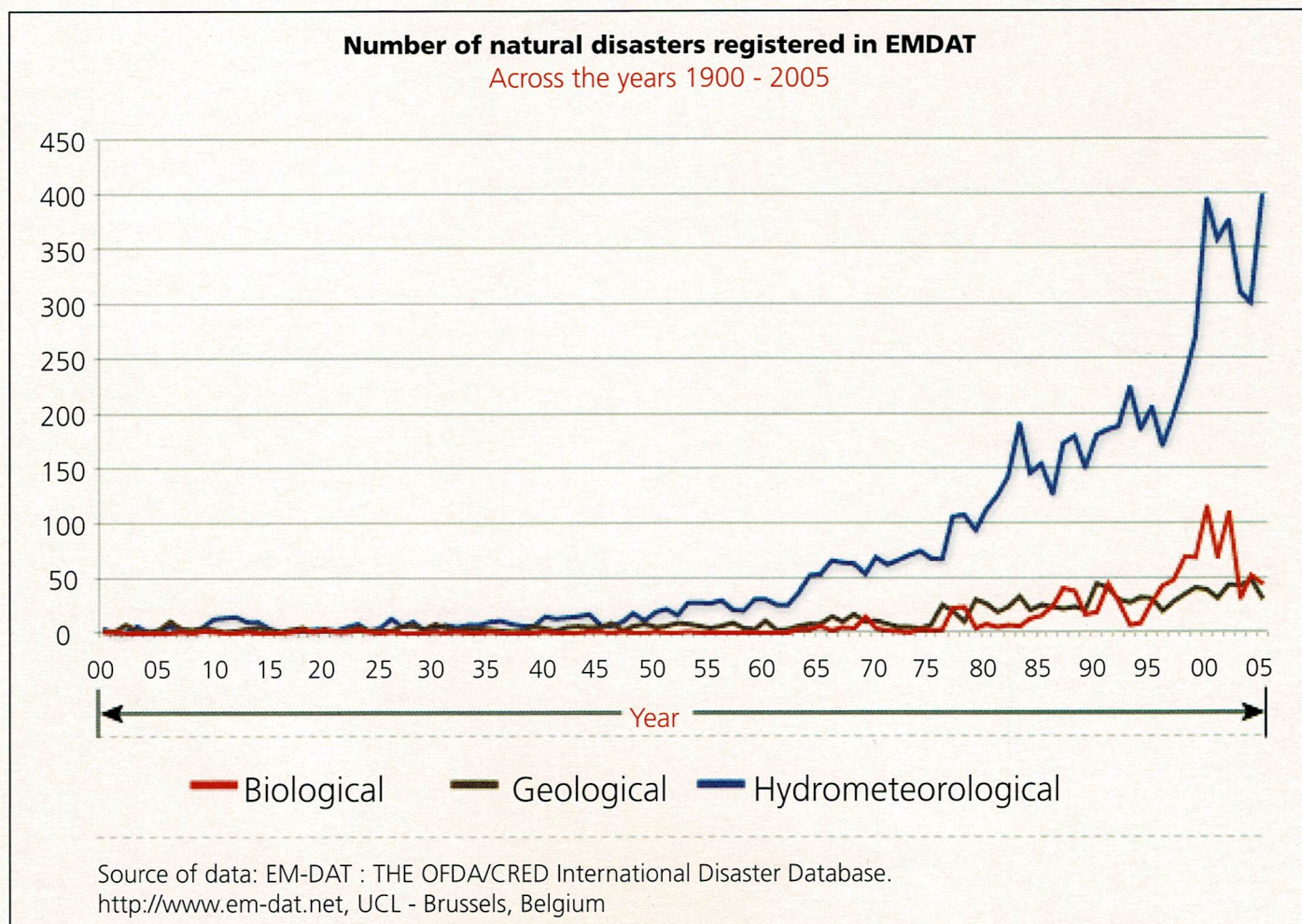
03-9074 3767
主日崇拜 10:00a.m.

"YOUR HELP – their hope"

the Malaysian Church & Disaster Response : A New Paradigm

Disasters, be they natural or "human-instigated" (previously called 'man-made') always result in suffering and even deaths. They may range from small localized floods affecting merely a few households to big catastrophes like earthquakes and tsunamis involving an entire nation or groups of nations.

Disasters have happened throughout man's history but now the frequency appears to be increasing at an alarming rate. Various causes have been proposed and the commonly-touted ones include "global warming", "environmental mismanagement" and "deforestation".



As Christians, we cannot help but see the correlation between what is happening in the world today and what God's Word says will happen in the end-times.

Jesus taught his disciples regarding *'the signs of the coming of the end of the age'* (Matt 24:3b) that there will be false teachers and teachings, *'wars and rumors of wars'*, *'nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom'* with *'famines and earthquakes'* (Matt 24:4-7). He also said that these are but just *'the beginning of birth pains'* (Matt 24:8). This scripture references from Matthew 24 and the parallel passage in Mark 13 are stark reminders of an uncomfortable impending reality.



To me the disasters we are witnessing in the world today can be just the *'beginnings of the birth pains'* (Mark 13:8). If it is, then we will need to heed the teachings of Jesus to *'learn this lesson from the fig tree'* that *'when you see these things happening, you know that it (end-times) is near, right at the door'* (Mark 13:28-29).

How then can and should the Church respond at such a time as this? If we see the signs and understand the times like the men of Issachar from of old (1 Chr 12:32), there must be a greater sense of urgency in our ministry for the Lord for we can only *'work while it is still day, night will come when no one can work'* (John 9:4). The "Great Conclusion" will only come when *'the gospel of the kingdom'* has been *'preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations (ethnos)'* (Matthew 24:14).

Bearing this in mind, the Church needs to get herself ready for the coming disasters, not only for the sake of self-preservation but for the deluge of hunger and other practical needs that often accompanies times of crisis and disaster. In times of disaster, when people's usual support structure and beliefs are shaken to the core, there is an openness to the Good News. As someone rightly pointed out, "There are no atheists during an earthquake."

God's people must be there to extend tangible, practical help and love, be it just in giving water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, medical help to the injured, or even just being a listening ear to the grieving. God's Word says: *'whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me'* (Matt 25:40).

A tangible demonstration of God's love and practical care to affected disaster victims with no strings attached is what it means to be the "hands & feet" of Jesus. Very occasionally some grateful recipients may ask "Why we are helping them...?" This will give us the opportunity to share about a God of Love and we being His servants. This has been our experience during recent disaster situations in both Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and China as well as locally – Johore and Malacca floods..





Disaster is happening all around us and Malaysia is extremely blessed to be spared from much of the devastation that has affected neighboring countries. Even the flooding that has occurred in our nation can in no way be compared to what happens in countries like Bangladesh year after year. Is it not timely for the Church in Malaysia to rise up and play a more pro-active and significant role in this whole area of disaster response, bearing in mind its importance in God's end-time plans?

Ad-hoc, uncoordinated disaster response by well-intentioned churches, individuals or small groups of Christians is good and commendable but inadequate, possibly ineffective in the bigger scheme of things and definitely unsustainable. In contrast, a unified, well-prepared and structured response drawing on the combined resources of the entire Body of Christ in Malaysia, both in terms of availability of man-power and professional skills as well as finances, will be much more effective and sustainable in any given disaster situation. The Malaysian church at present is far from this ideal situation. We can and must do much better if similar disasters recurs but "good disaster response" is not something that will just happen by itself – much time, effort and finance must be invested in identifying, mobilizing, training and equipping Christians within the confines of a local church or better still inter-church / denominational context.



I am proposing that the Malaysian church and her leaders seriously consider putting in place people and resources for quick and concerted disaster response. We all need to catch the vision and this must be followed by setting aside the necessary personnel with proper training and equipment. Disaster Response as such, should be viewed as part of the missions outreach in any church requiring the support and encouragement of church leadership.

Disaster Response Preparedness can be at two levels :



resuscitation), what to do if a person faints, have a seizure, involved in an accident with a possible fracture or is choking etc All very practical and useful knowledge which will serve you well even in your everyday family and church life.

Introduction to common disasters will also be done under this module eg what to do in a flood situation, a landslide or even a fire.

Costing** for the above module is being done as some of the training material used is disposable in nature but will be kept to a low minimum to encourage greater participation. We hope to use suitable church premises to conduct the above module. Initially sessions will be conducted in English but I am also working together with another brother in conducting similar modules in Mandarin.

ADVANCE MODULE - Rapid Response Team

Churches and Pastors can also help by identifying one or more suitable members who have an interest in Disaster Response, able to respond quickly to a call for help (within 48-72 hours) and stay in a disaster area for a longer period (weeks to months).

Such members will be formed into Regional Rapid Response Teams (RRRTs) and receive more intensive training – about 4-6 day training modules followed by a 3 monthly 1 day refresher courses.

Such Regional Rapid Response Teams (RRRT) can be formed according to location, equipped and trained. Part of the preparatory training will include responding to localized “disasters” – eg floods, landslides or even participating in short-term mission trips to disaster-prone communities just to sharpen our skills as well as our cohesiveness in working together.



BASIC Module - Basic First Aid & Intro to Disaster Response

In line with a stated objective of the Malaysian Government to get at least 10% of the population trained for Basic First Aid and Disaster Response, I am proposing that 10% of church members avail themselves to receive such training. Consider it as part of your “National Service” as loyal Malaysians. This Basic Training module takes about 2 days (Saturday 8am-12noon, 2pm – 6pm and Sunday 2pm-6pm) and can be done “in-house” with groups of 30 to 40 at a time.

Topics covered under this module include general first aid, CPR (Cardio-pulmonary

CREST as the only dedicated Malaysian Christian Disaster response agency – has been in existence since 1998. This year CREST celebrates her 10th Anniversary which by itself is a testimony to God's enabling, faithfulness and provision. It has been a struggle over the years for CREST to stay afloat, continue to be relevant and effective in her very specific niche ministry of Christian Disaster Response mainly due to varying and fluctuating levels of support from the Malaysian Church in general and Christians in particular. CREST is totally dependent on external support for her personnel & financial needs thus greatly curtailing her response time in / to Disasters as well as effectiveness and fruitfulness post-disasters.

Over the past year or so CREST has been trying to increase the Awareness & Preparedness level of the Malaysian Christian & Church towards Disaster Relief work. We have had varying levels of success in being invited to share at various Church gatherings, conferences, Pastor fellowships or even Committee meetings. This year CREST managed to conduct two Disaster Relief Training Schools locally – one Bilingual 4 days Basic module conducted in July 2008 in conjunction with HIS Team and another an Advance Module over a 6 days period from 29th Sep to 4th Oct 2008. Both were well attended and the participants benefited from the training given. CREST was also involved in running a Disaster training school in Mindanao, Philippines – Nov 2007.

In conclusion, times of disasters may be the "worst of times" but the response shown by God's people can turn it into the "best of times". What the devil intended during times of disaster for destruction and evil, God through His people can turn it into something good - (a paraphrased adaptation of Gen 50:20)

If you or your church / fellowship are interested in exploring this whole idea of Disaster Response further, or you want to be involved but do not know where to even begin - feel free to contact me and we can suggest and explore various options. Some of you because of your own professional training or business dealing / contacts or just your personal interest feel you are able and willing to contribute and assist CREST in her aim to raise the level of Awareness, Preparedness and Response of the Malaysian Church towards Disasters, please do contact me – there are different levels of contribution, commitment and engagement and if you are keen, I am sure we can find a suitable niche for you in the entire cascading scheme of Disaster Response.



The very fact that you are attending / attended CREST's 10th Anniversary Fundraising Dinner – "Your Help, Their hope" is a very good beginning combined with the fact that you took the time to read this 'Forward' all the way to the end – I think you must have a heart for the unfortunate victims of disasters – a very good foundation to start from. Do drop us a line via our email crest@crestmalaysia.org or give us a call +603-7725 7299. Alternatively you can contact me directly via my contact details listed below.

I am currently serving with **Strategic Missions Program Bhd** or **STAMP** (www.stamp-upg.org), a missions agency focusing on holistic missions. My focus ministry is in the whole area of Disaster Response & Medical Missions. **Crisis Relief Services & Training - CREST** (www.crestmalaysia.org/) is my Malaysian partner for Disaster response. At the international level, we are linked up with **Frontier Crisis & Response Network (FCRN)** (www.ethne.net/FCRN), a track under **ETHNE** (www.ethne.net), a global missions movement focused on UPGs.

God Bless

Dr Ng Swee Ming

MBBS (Mal), IDHA

ngsweeming@gmail.com, 017-333 0088

Dr Ng Swee Ming is married to Dr Ng Kok Moi, a Dental Surgeon by training who has been serving full-time for the last 9 years as the children's pastor in Sungei Way – Subang Methodist Church. They both grew up in Chinese Methodist Church, Seremban. They have three children; Oon-Ee pursuing his Masters in Mechatronics at Monash Malaysia, Oon-Yow studying Psychology in HELP Uni-College and Oon-Hui, a Form 4 student in Sek Men USJ2.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Doulos Presbyterian Church

(A member of Gereja Presbyterian Malaysia)

84, Jalan SS24/2, Taman Megah,

47300 Petaling Jaya

Sunday Worship & Children Sunday School : 9.30am

CONGRATULATIONS

on your

10TH ANNIVERSARY

from

**Gereja Presbyterian
Melaka**

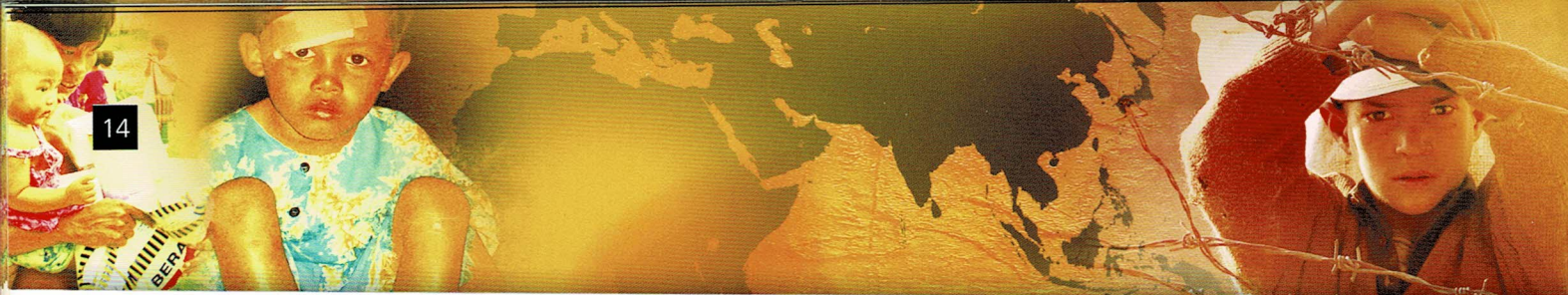


**34-36 Jalan Suria 6
Taman Malim Jaya**

75250 Melaka

Tel : 06-3363744

Fax : 06-3344859



A Word from a Volunteer

The tsunami of December 2004 has heightened the awareness of disasters and awakened people of the need to provide humanitarian aid to victims of disasters. Since that unforgettable morning, various natural disasters have occurred in rapid succession and greater intensity, resulting in the continual call for worldwide attention and action.

My first voluntary relief work with CREST was to Nias Island, Sumatra which was hit by an earthquake of Richter scale 8.4 in April 2005. Subsequently, my work continued in the earthquakes in North-West Pakistan and Jogjakarta, the floods in Johor and Bangladesh and the recent cyclone in Myanmar. During the course of voluntary work, I learned many lessons: conducting mobile medical clinics in diverse places under different situations; working with other Christian organizations and networking as part of God's Kingdom and be an effective channel of God's love to those in disaster situations.

There are many skills one can use on the field. No one is without a role in disaster relief. For example in a typical mobile medical clinic, there is a need for workers to help in crowd control, dispense medicine, provide emotional and spiritual counseling, teach simple hygiene and engage in children ministry. Logistics need able-bodied men to arrange and transport essential relief aids such as food and water to reach those who have no access to nutritious food and potable water. CREST conducts training courses on a regular basis to prepare and equip volunteers for the different roles in disaster relief.

This is in essence, what CREST volunteers do when we work together. Through volunteering, one will have the opportunity to be involved in all the processes of channeling God's compassion to those in our land and beyond.

Dr Yoong Sao Chin B.Pharm, MBBS

Dr Yoong is a CREST Director. A graduate in Pharmacy and Medicine, he served in Hospital Ipoh before going into private practice for the last 15 years. He is married to June Poh, whom he met at the FGA Ipoh home-cell. Their children, Rebecca age 16 and Michael age 13 are still studying in Ipoh.

He graduated with a Certificate in Theology from Moore Theological College, NSW, Australia in 1998. In 2008, he completed the Certificate in Community-based Disaster Risk Management from National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi and World Bank Institute, Washington. He is currently pursuing studies for the Diploma in Disaster Management from the University of Wisconsin



A Word From CREST Partners – Operation Mobilisation Pakistan

The 2005 Pakistan Earthquake was a huge shock to the Pakistani nation as well as OM Pakistan. About 80,000 people perished, 4 million lost their homes and scores of people were injured. OM Pakistan did not have any prior experience in disaster relief, but it was clear immediately that we have to act.

It was then that we were linked up, almost accidentally, with CREST, who offered expertise and advice to us and medical care to the victims. CREST sent frequent medical teams while we provided the logistics locally and thus, a great partnership was formed. Each day, the medical teams set up mobile clinics in a different village. Initially, this meant mostly treating those wounded by the debris of their collapsing houses. As time went on and winter set in, sicknesses related to the cold weather and inadequate housing rose sharply and the need for medical care continued. Often, the clinics were set up in remote villages which meant that the team had to walk long distances carrying their supplies uphill to the destination.

After the winter, we assisted people in building temporary shelters with wooden structures and corrugated iron-sheet covering to replace the tents they had been living in. These shelters had many advantages, but the downside was that they get heated up tremendously during the day and became very cold at night. Again, the partnership with CREST proved worthwhile wherein CREST arranged for a shipment of polyethylene insulation sheets. This kept the shelters at moderate temperatures and made them more suitable for living.

CREST also sent financial assistance which enabled OM Pakistan to carry out other areas of relief and rehabilitation. We are very grateful for the partnership with CREST during the disaster and are thankful to CREST staff, volunteers and donors who invested their time, energy and finance in rebuilding the lives of the people in Pakistan.

We value CREST's services and congratulate this distinctive organisation on the occasion of their 10th anniversary.

Wolfgang Detsch

on behalf of OM Pakistan





A Word From CREST Partners – LSM Peduli Bangsa

Lembaga Swadaya Masyarakat Peduli Bangsa (LSM Peduli Bangsa) is an Indonesian NGO which was formed in the aftermath of the 2004 Tsunami. The carnage that was left behind by the receding tides awakened Indonesian Christians to the need to act swiftly and coordinately in times of national disasters and crises and so the organization was formed. Operating from our head office in Batam Island, we are focused on providing relief and recovery aid to victims of disasters and the needy. These acts of mercy and compassion are offered to all who need it regardless of their race and religion. In the short span of time since we began our ministry, we have been involved in the wide spectrum of disaster relief and recovery of communities. We have set up soup kitchens, distributed food supplies, household items and tents, constructed permanent homes, opened and managed orphanages, provided free tuition classes to children and given free medical treatment. Our teams have been actively involved in the Padang Earthquake, Bengkulu Earthquake, Aceh floods, Jakarta floods, and Nias Earthquake. We seek to glorify God as we attempt to meet people's physical and spiritual needs.

CREST has been a key partner in our education and housing projects in Aceh. Through CREST, cash donations from generous and caring Malaysians have been channeled to many needy communities in Indonesia. 300 families now have a safe and sturdy house as their permanent home after having lost all their possessions to the killer waves. Hundreds of village children are given a head start in life with free tuition classes taught by government trained teachers. The funds received not only enable us to buy the necessary school supplies but also to pay the teachers' salary. CREST has helped to pay the salary of 18 teachers for 12 months and 20 teachers for 6 months.

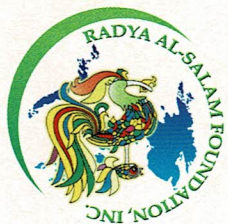
Our partnership is birthed and nurtured by a common passion to bring God's love to the poor and the needy by practical acts of mercy and compassion. Our desire is to see lives changed and communities transformed for the better by the power of God.

With blessings,

Yusak Hentrias Ferry, SP, MA

Manager, Lembaga Swadaya Masyarakat Peduli Bangsa





A Word From CREST Partners – Radya Al-Salam Foundation

Partnering to help transform lives, empower communities and build peace

Radya Al-Salam Foundation, Inc. (RASFI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization working towards building peace and transformational development among the Tri-People (Muslims, Christians and Lumads) of the Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan Regions, Philippines. Our mandate is to bless the underserved people groups/communities by deploying committed and equipped workers to facilitate relevant programs and projects. Volunteerism and partnership are the lifeblood of RASFI operations.

RASFI volunteers serve as pre-school teachers, English teachers, computer instructors, peace facilitators, community organizers and livelihood trainers among the underserved Muslim communities in the conflict affected areas of Mindanao. RASFI also serves in places affected by natural disasters.

In partnership with other organizations, RASFI conducted a training on disaster response for 44 participants in Cagayan de Oro City from November 9 to 12, 2007. The objective was to develop a better response system for RASFI teams working in different parts of Mindanao. We were privileged to have among our trainers, Lana and Steve from CREST. This training paved the way for our partnership with CREST.

Barely a week after the training, a series of natural and man-made calamities (flash floods in Nov 18-19; storm surge in Nov 27 and fire in Nov 30) hit different parts of Iligan City. We were immediately put to "On the Job Training" (OJT). Undaunted by the limited resources, RASFI's Iligan Team set out to apply the lessons gained from the training. We are grateful for the partners who responded and extended help, especially to CREST for sending Steve to assist us.

With the partners' financial assistance, we were able to purchase relief goods for distribution. Each pack was prepared with due consideration of the basic needs and culture of the recipients.

In addition to an average Filipino family's one week food supply, we put in some extra items to encourage and convey hope during the crisis. Steve's suggestion to put the relief goods in a water bucket instead of the usual plastic bag proved to be very helpful. The people really appreciated the innovation since they can use the bucket at the evacuation center and in their homes.

The relief operation also helped us to establish meaningful relationships with the underserved Muslim communities and this relationship has become part of their community life. Some of them have enrolled in our Computer Tutorials and some are recipients of our Livelihood Assistance Program which are part of the ongoing rehabilitation work. We can now visit communities and initiate dialogues on how to empower them as individuals, families and as a community. We are committed to help empower communities to resolve their problems by optimizing their own untapped resources.

We are grateful to CREST for the invaluable help.

At the present moment, we face the paralyzing, heart-wrenching effects of the armed conflicts in Mindanao. Christians, Muslims and Lumads who adhere to traditional ethnic beliefs have a long history of religious and ethnic strife. Although armed conflicts have besieged the area for decades, the causes and the complexities are not generally well understood. **Yet, the fact remains that thousands of innocent people continue to suffer violence, displacement and poverty due to this.**



Recently, in August 18, 2008, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rogues attacked some communities in Kolambugan and Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte. The rebels' atrocities and the on-going aggressive pursuit of the Philippine Armed Forces against two MILF commanders resulted in the displacement of thousands of families, Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

These recent events placed us once again in the midst of a crisis. As the number of internally displaced people increases, the demand for basic needs escalates. Measures and activities are urgently needed for psychosocial intervention, debriefing of children and traumatized women, trauma healing and emotional recovery. As Muslim and non-Muslim relations become wounded again, continued peace-building efforts also become a priority. CREST again, upon knowing our involvement in the situation extended help.

As we turn these recent events into opportunities to make a positive impact in the lives of people who are hurting, who are grieving for lost ones and belongings, who are in need, who are losing hope – as we work with them and among them, we will always be grateful for our partnership with CREST. For whatever we can accomplish with the help of God, we consider CREST to be a part of it all. Thank you.

Yet above all these, to God be the glory!

Nemuel C. Castrodes

Chairman of the Board

Collyn C. Laurio

Programme Coordinator

RASFI Mindanao

Philippines



A Letter From Myanmar

Thank you so much for coming to visit Myanmar as well as helping us. During the 1st week of the cyclone, CREST staff gave out food distribution to 5 areas, i.e. Dalla, Lawka, South Dagon, Pego-Thakala and Hinthagone. 400 families received emergency food supplies. At this crucial time, food and essential provisions was very difficult to obtain. CREST sent 4 containers of relief items, food, tarpaulin, new clothes, baby items, toiletries, rice etc. 600 families received rice, dhal, cooking oil, canned sardines, soap, onion, salt and new clothes.

One outstanding thing that CREST did was to rebuild our community center where we give training to 120 children weekly. Now this beautiful new house has electricity powered by a generator. The reinforced concrete water tank was equipped with a pump to a water bore, supplying free drinking water to this community. It is a real bonus to people who are living in poverty.

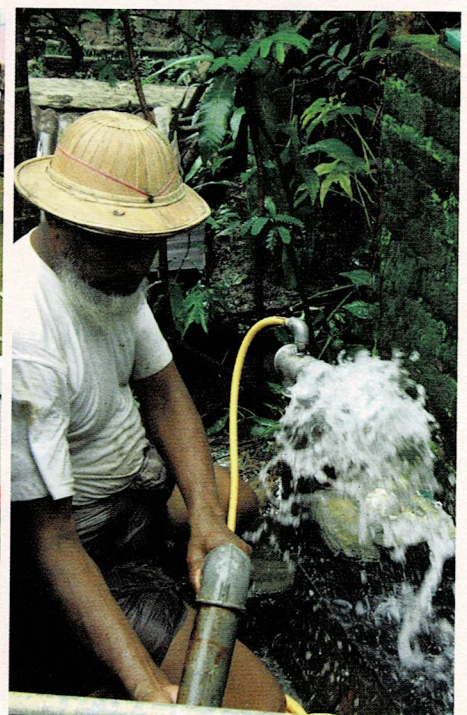
I want to tell you a very interesting story. A single parent with 3 children and had serious health problem now comes to see me with tears in her eyes. Her tears springs from a thankful heart because CREST gave her money to settle her debts, repair her home and start a small income generating business.

CREST gave us money to buy educational kits, tables, chairs, stationery, white boards, exercise books, colouring pencils, sharpeners, etc. Our children also gets to eat a meal of rice and dhal once a week after their weekly tuition.

Thank you so much for all your loving help and gifts.

Pastor Alex Thu

Tamil Telegu Church, Yangon



Cyclone Nargis Project

It has been 6 months since Cyclone Nargis ravaged the coastal areas of Myanmar. An estimated 140,000 people were reported dead or missing. Media attention is minimal, but reconstruction and rehabilitation is ongoing. The Myanmar people have tenacity and perseverance despite their long suppressed suffering. They are a very resourceful people.

In the earlier days, security and restrictions were strictly enforced. It was almost impossible to enter the country to do relief work. Yet God opened the door for CREST through a large business conglomerate who released 1,000 of their staff to do relief work. We tapped into their resources and were able to deliver 70,000 kg of relief goods into the disaster zone. More than 7,700 families were recipients of goods donated by generous private organisations and Christians in Malaysia. CREST also collaborated with other Christian groups – Myanmar Christian Churches Cyclone Relief (MCCCR), Myanmar Compassion Project (MCP), Karen Baptist Convention, Campus Crusade, Love Myanmar International and Tamil Annual Conference (TAC).

Relief aid went into the Ayeryarwaddy regions of Middle Island, Bogale, Labutta and outskirts of Yangon. In Kwin Gyi village, more than 40 boats and 40 fishing nets were given out to the fishermen. Livelihood projects were implemented as the rice fields have been destroyed.

As of October, 7 teams have been actively engaged in relief work. Projects initiated are mobile medical teams, trauma counselling, food relief, distribution of fresh drinking water, feeding of orphans and slum children, education kit, books and school fees. Toilets, homes and community centres were rebuilt.

CREST wish to acknowledge individuals, churches and private organisations for giving without reservation. Without your support, we could never have been able to do so much and to go the extra mile.

52 churches and 75 individuals gave generously in cash and kind and volunteers especially the youth of SSMC and KCMC who tagged and packed 3 containers with relief goods: SSMC, FGA(KL), FGA(Ipoh), FGA (Miri), FGA(BP), MBS, Rawang CC, PPH (Sp), Ps Sarah, PK Charis Cheras, USJ, Sbg Jaya, Bdr Sunway Chinese Pastoral, Jubilee Initiative Msia, PPCC-Cheras, Trinity Trac, English Speaking Presbytery, Ps John Chin, Charisma Assembly-Segamat, Elim House Church, RLS Bdr Puteri, Canning Gdn Baptist church, Tabernacle of David, PJEFC (Chinese) PJEFC(English), Wesley Methodist Kuala Lipis, FGC-JB, SNS, Infuse Youth, Puchong Christian Alliance, Berean AOG, MM Klang, PKCharis-Kepong, Emmanuel Methodist Church, Grace Baptist-Kuching, St Andrew Presbyterian (E) Ipoh, Elim Gospel Hall-Ipoh, MUK Eng Methodist Church, Nesam, Gereja Presb PD, Calvary CC, Manjung PsWesley Methodist Fellowship, Glad Tidings AOG, New Life Restoration Center Bhd, Charis CC, Balai Baptist Kalvari, SIB-Sarikei, SIBKL, BLESS/SIB, BCCM-Central Council, DUMC, Tasek Gelugor CF.

Private organisations: Giant, Summit Company, Lam Soon, John Master, Tasco, TNT, MAS, MAI, Galleries Gift House, Nordin Torji & Partners, Intergrace.

The relief phase is over. CREST has already started the rehabilitation and rebuilding phase which will be completed at year end. The support of children's primary education is for 6 years.

Because you gave and release your gifts, many lives were touched and impacted. Truly we have built a bridge and connected with them heart to heart. They can HOPE again and rebuild their LIVES.

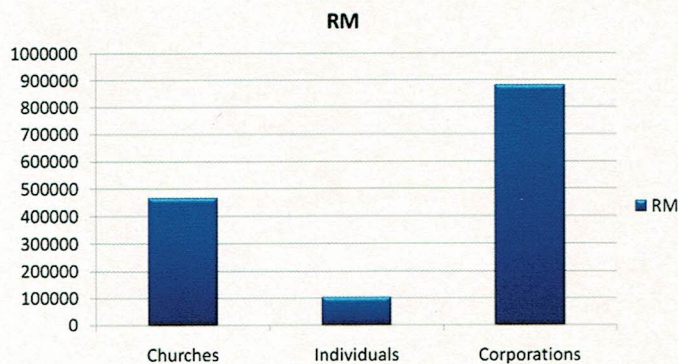
Our gratitude and indebtedness to all who give sacrificially, quietly and generously. Thank you for extending your hand and partnering with us.

Blessed to be a blessing

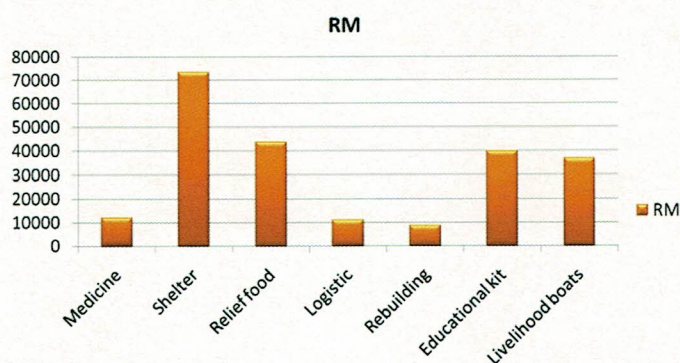
Lana Wong

Executive Director

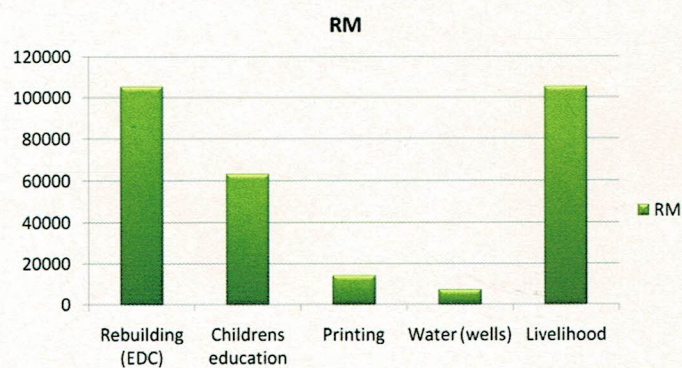
Received



Completed Projects



In progress



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from

Wesley Methodist Church, KL

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50150 Kuala Lumpur

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Fax: 03-20729982

Email: klwmc@streamyx.com



CONGRATULATIONS

on your

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“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me”

Matthew 25:35-36

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me’”

Matthew 25:40

From The English
Speaking Presbytery

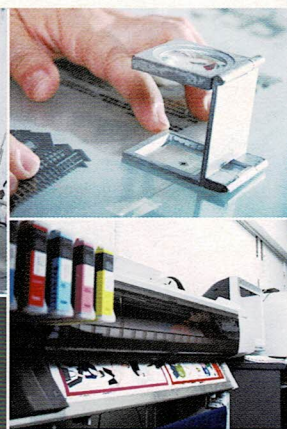
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From James Wong & Family



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BS 1387 :1985, JIS G3452



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BS 1387: 1985, JIS 3452



Copper Pipe
EN 1057 (BS 2871)



Stainless Steel Pipe
ASTM A312 304/304L/316L



MSCL Pipe
BS 534:1981



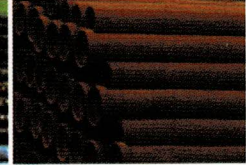
PVC/UPVC/HDPE/ABS Pipe
BS 3505, BS 3506, JIS 6741, BS 5255,
BS 4514, BS 4660, BS 5481, MS 628,
MS 1034



Ductile Iron Pipe
BS EN 545:1995 Class K9



Seamless Carbon Steel Pipe
ATM A234, ANSI B 16.9
(Sch 40/80)



Vitrified Clay Pipe
BS 65:1991

Fittings



Galvanised Malleable Fittings
BS 143 & 1256:1986



SGP Steel Fittings - JIS B2311
Carbon Steel Fittings - ATSM
A 234, ANSI B16.9 (Sch 40/80)



Copper Fittings
(Welding and Compression)
BS 864-2



Stainless Steel Fittings (Welding and Screwed)
ALFRAN
ASTM A312 304/304L/316L



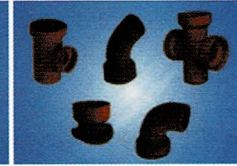
MSCL Fittings
BS 534:1981



PVC/UPVC/HDPE/ABS Fittings
BS 4514, BS 5255



Ductile Iron Fittings
BS EN 545:1995



Vitrified Clay Fittings
BS 65:1991



Crane Fluid System (UK)
Steam Malleable Iron Pipe Fittings
BS 143 & 1256:1986

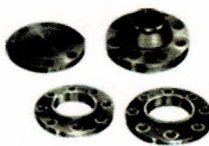
Accessories



Automatic Air Vent
- RBM
- VASA



Brass Gate Valve
- Enolgas PN 10, PN 16
- Pegler



Mild Steel Flanges
BS 10 Table E,
JIS 5K & 10K
ANSI 150LB Slip-On



Brass 'Y'
Strainer
- Italy



Pressure
Gauge



Ball Float Valve C/W
Copper Float
- Hattersley
- Pegler / Conex (UK)
- CITY



Cast Iron Gate Valve
CL 125 & CL175 (UC/FM)
- SCI



Pressure
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Rinox PN 25

ALFRAN



Cast/Ductile Iron Sluice and Gate Valve
BS 3464, BS 5163



Cast Iron Water Check Valve
(Single and Double Door)



Cast Iron Swing
Check Valve
BS 4090



Cast Iron Butterfly Valve
(Lever and Worm Gear)
BS 5155



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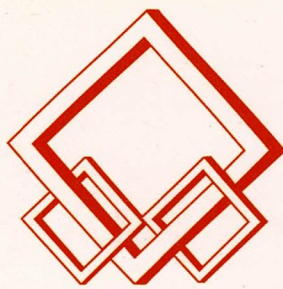
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