Located in the Pacific and Indian Oceans in southeast Asia, Indonesia consists of more than 17,000 islands. Its first European visitor was Marco Polo. The Dutch colonized the islands in the 17th century. Indonesia declared its independence in 1945, when the Japanese, who occupied the islands briefly, surrendered. More than half of the population lives on Java, the world’s most populated island. Java is also a source of coffee beans—hence the nickname “Java” for coffee.

Indonesia is the largest producer of palm oil in the world and a leading producer of nutmeg. It is also the only place on earth to host Komodo dragons (the world’s largest lizard) and orangutans in the wild. It contains more active volcanoes than any other nation, which is also a source of natural disaster for the people.

More than 300 distinct ethnic and linguistic groups reside among Indonesia’s population of 262 million people. Indonesia is also the largest Muslim-majority nation in the world. Less than 10% are Christian. Moreover, many of the people have blended indigenous animistic practices into their monotheistic religious belief systems.

Lutheran Hour Ministries conducts outreach in Indonesia through mass media, technology, and interpersonal channels.

Ministry Response

There is tremendous opportunity to share God’s love and reach out with the Gospel in Indonesia. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM–Indonesia) responds to the spiritual hunger across this Asian country through a variety of strategies:

**RADIO.** Radio is a vital outreach tool, given Indonesia’s wide physical span and its thousands of islands. Our radio broadcast, Harmoni, is geared toward families, young adults, and youth. It offers hope and a Christian perspective for the daily issues of life. It also shares God’s plan of salvation for listeners through Christ Jesus. Harmoni also provides an outlet for promoting Bible Correspondence Courses (BCCs) and other printed material.

**HOLISTIC OUTREACH.** Partnering with local congregations and communities, LHM–Indonesia conducts holistic outreach in the areas of education and health care. We also assist victims of floods, landslides, and volcanic eruptions. Our goal is to help individuals regardless of their ethnicity, race, religion, or social level. As we meet people’s physical needs, conversations turn toward Jesus, the One who cares for them more than any of us could.
**LIVE EVENTS.** Film showings, puppet shows, seminars, music, and sports competitions provide fun, pressure-free environments for demonstrating the love of Jesus to those who attend, offering more information to those who do not know Him or are new to the faith. Geared toward children and adults, live events are our most effective outreach activities.

**BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES.** LHM–Indonesia offers Bible Correspondence Courses (BCCs) to introduce the Gospel to people who don't know Jesus, and to reinforce a biblical understanding for people who do. When someone responds to an outreach activity, LHM–Indonesia will typically invite the respondent to begin a BCC as the next step in his or her spiritual journey. BCCs are available for both children and adults. One key avenue for promoting BCCs is LHM–Indonesia’s radio broadcasts.

**EQUIPPING THE SAINTS.** LHM–Indonesia conducts Equipping the Saints workshops to provide a new generation of Christians with practical ways to carry the Gospel into their local communities. After attending these sessions, believers feel more confident sharing the Good News with their neighbors and inviting them to local congregations. We continue to keep in touch with the participants to help them apply what they learned.

**YOUTH MINISTRY.** As adolescents struggle with conflicting moral and social choices, our Love, Sex and Dating seminar tackles tough topics—from character building to pornography to drugs—in an honest, relevant manner, rooted in God’s love for them. This meets a vital need for young people, since Indonesian culture frowns upon open discussion about sex. We work with contacts at schools and other organizations to promote these seminars.

### Impact

**SHAPING THE FUTURE:**

God Brought an Indonesian Girl to Faith through Lutheran Hour Ministries

Hana lives on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, where she attends high school. When her friends started dating, Hana noticed a negative effect. Dating distracted some of her friends from their studies. Others grew rebellious and disrupted their family relationships. Hana had not started dating yet. As a result, her friends grew distant. She felt sad and isolated.

The experience filled Hana’s heart with questions about relationships and culture: Why do dating relationships cause some people’s behavior to change for the worse? When is it too early to date? Does dating too early bring guilt on you? One day, she heard about a seminar on dating, hosted by a local church and LHM–Indonesia. They had designed the event for youth, so Hana decided to attend. She learned about boundaries in dating that pleased God. “Finally, I found the answers to all my questions!” she says.

Hana also learned that salvation is available to her in Christ. The Holy Spirit brought Hana to faith in Jesus.

Hana is grateful for her newfound faith. She is eager to live her new life in Christ. She says, “Please pray for me. May I be a good and faithful Christian teenager who can live my faith in my daily life.”

LHM.ORG/GLOBAL

*Due to the sensitive nature of ministry work in this region, please do not reprint this information or post it on social media or in public places.*