



Emergency Grant to Indonesia



The Mark Benevolent Fund has approved a grant of £30,000 to provide relief for those affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia. The grant will be used to purchase 857 ShelterKits provided by ShelterBox Disaster Relief.

Amongst other items ShelterKits provide a tarpaulin, hammer, nails, a shovel and rope to help utilise existing materials that may be on hand to make quick repairs and provide immediate shelter.

To find out more about Shelterbox and Shelterkits click on this link: www.shelterbox.org/shelter/aid/shelterkits

Mark well Brethren, your support for the Mark Benevolent Fund continues to help those in need no matter who or where they are.

Thank you.

About the Mark Benevolent Fund

The Mark Benevolent Fund (M.B.F.) was founded in 1868 by Canon George Raymond Portal. The aim of the charity is to help poor and distressed Mark Master Masons and their immediate family. To date over £7 million has been disbursed in grants to individual petitioners.

The M.B.F. also makes donations to many other charities and worthy causes. These grants have totalled over £20 million since 1868. Examples of grants over recent years are £2.6 million to the Hope for tomorrow Cancer Charity; £12,937 to the Dogs for Good charity for the training and development of a support dog; £1.4 million to St Bartholomew's Hospital for Cancer Care; £13,150 to the Baldwin Trust for the refurbishment of canal boats specially modified for disabled visitors; £107,628 for St Oswald's Hospice in Northumberland to replace and upgrade their kitchen facilities and a renewed partnership with St John Ambulance pledging over £3 million to help replace their fleet of ambulances, mobile treatment centres and support vehicles.

As the 150th Anniversary of the M.B.F. approaches, it is important to reflect on Canon Portal's drive, enthusiasm and dedication, remembering that to him it was wrong for there to be any delay in providing assistance to those in need. Canon Portal's own Latin tag "Bis dat qui cito dat" – 'He gives twice who gives promptly' or 'A gift given without hesitation is as good as two gifts', became the guiding principle of the M.B.F. We still live by that adage, which is as relevant today as it was when he founded the Fund in 1868.

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