

CHI SIAMO – LA NOSTRA STORIA



It was October 24, 1991. I had been sent by my Congregation as a missionary to Flores, a small island in Indonesia. I had never heard of it. I left only with the enthusiasm of someone who wants to be a "GIFT" for poor, distant brothers, and to see in them that transfigured Face of the Lord. On October 30th I was in Maumere - Flores, with Sr. Luciana Stella and the Mother General, Sr. Tiziana Codello. We did not have a home, place and destination. It was all to decide.

Koting was a village near the city and for us it seemed the right, favorable place to start our mission. The old church became our temporary home. In November Sr. Luciana fell ill with malaria which left in her tiredness and physical weakness so, in order to make her recover, it was decided to go to Malang-Jawa as guests of the Passionist fathers. We stayed there until 18 December. Back in Koting, I started teaching religion in the local elementary schools. There were no means other than the feet of St. Francis, but it was nice because you met people and began to learn about customs and traditions. From house to house I saw people's poverty, I listened to their history, I felt their faith and the joy of their life.



Then something terrible happened. It was Saturday 12-12-1992 at 1.20 pm ... a shock ... then another tremendous, strong, long ... I started screaming: earthquake, earthquake ... All safe ... but under the sky with the scorching, scorching sun ...

Everything had collapsed ... I shared my suffering, tears, anguish with the brothers ... trying to give hope, healing wounds and distributing what remained ... I remember that the following day, which was a Sunday, we celebrated the Holy Mass among the ruins of the Church under the scorching sun, raising songs of faith and hope, thanking the Lord for life and praying for the victims. We lived with a family for four months and then in a bamboo house like all the locals until 2000, experiencing discomfort and simplicity.

Even in Koting the bamboo house did not hold up. It was leaking almost everywhere, and it was not healthy. With the help of friends, social and diocesan organizations and Propaganda Fidei, I began the construction of the house of the sisters,



Then I continued with the reception house, and ended in 2003 with the nursery school. It took a long time, but the Lord has never left me alone in this work. The purpose of the Mission: "BRINGING THE FACE OF JESUS TO THE MOST ABANDONED PLACES, RESTORING IT IN THE DISFIGURATED FACES OF THE BROTHERS OPPRESSED BY INJUSTICE, ALONE, ABANDONED, animated my whole day.



Meanwhile, years have gone by and the mission have required drive, creativity, risk ...

The Indonesian sisters needed to study to carry out the mission in the future. There was a need for a house in the city where one could attend university. After a few trips, Kupang, the capital of the NTT Province was chosen as the third house of the mission. We had no chance to build, so we rented a house. It was May 2005. Then in 2008 we bought a house where we still live today and, in the meantime, the two graduated sisters began to collect preschool children using the garage as a classroom. It was not at all suitable for a kindergarten. So in 2015, with the help of friends and Caritas Antoniana, I was able to build the new kindergarten.

In 2009 we also opened a house with a pastoral purpose in Wekaseko-Flores and finally in 2012 Weekombaka - Sumba.

For more than three years the sisters have lived in the old rectory then in 2016 with the help of friends and associations we built the house for the sisters and we are currently struggling with the construction of a multipurpose hall. The current construction meets the needs of the place where everything is lacking for meetings, catechesis, etc.



Everything is possible if we believe that Providence is shared charity and the solidarity of the brothers and sisters who give a little of what they have to those who have nothing

