

Tulsa group to aid quake victims in Indonesia

► Most of the medical students come from the In His Image program.

By NICOLE NASCENZI
World Staff Writer

Despite the threat of an erupting volcano, a medical relief team left Tulsa on Tuesday to help earthquake victims in Indonesia.

The active Mount Merapi volcano is 19 miles north of Yogyakarta, where the Tulsa team plans to base its roughly 14-day operation.

Indonesia's disaster management office said 3,000 people were evacuated Wednesday.

Since the alert level was raised three weeks ago to its highest level, nearly 23,000 people have left. The mountain is about 250 miles east of the capital, Jakarta.

The team is composed mainly of medical students from Tulsa-based In His Image, a program that trains doctors in Christian family practice and is affiliated with Hillcrest Medical Center.

The In His Image team will be working with an Indonesian-

How to help

Donations for the In His Image Earthquake Relief Effort can be made online at www.inhisimage.org. Checks can be mailed to 7600 S. Lewis Ave., Tulsa, OK 74136. The group can be reached by telephone at 493-7816, Ext. 5.

Donations to the Tulsa Area Chapter of the American Red Cross can be sent to P.O. Box 995, Tulsa, OK 74182 or made online at www.redcross.org. Contributors should denote in the memo line of the check that donors want the money to go toward the Indonesian relief effort.

based relief program called World Harvest.

Dr. Mitchell Duinick, director of the residency program, said he was not sure where the team would sleep, but in addition to medical supplies, they packed sleeping bags and mosquito netting.

Although more than two weeks has elapsed since the earthquake, people in the affect-

ed area still have a lot of medical needs, Dr. Val Tromonte said.

He said he expected to find a lot of psychological trauma, broken bones and infected wounds.

As with the organization's previous international trips to disaster areas, Tromonte said that often the best thing a doctor can do is listen to a patient's story.

"The need is overwhelming, and our goal is to be faithful to what God is calling us to do, to bring his love and compassion to a place that may not have seen it," Tromonte said.

Duinick said each doctor would have a translator, and they will travel to smaller villages each day to reach those in need of care.

He said it will cost about \$30,000 to fund the relief mission.

Several local organizations, including Blessings International and World Compassion Terry Law Ministries, are contributing medical supplies and support.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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An earthquake survivor collects water from a well Tuesday in a devastated area in Palbapang, near Bantul, Indonesia. The country has begun immunizing tens of thousands of survivors against tetanus and measles.

DITA ALANGKARA / Associated Press



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Sapulpa police officer fired for contact with 16-year-old

SAPULPA — A Sapulpa police officer is being fired and could face criminal charges for his contact with a 16-year-old girl.

Police Chief Jim Wall said in a termination letter to the officer, Michael Knutson, that Knutson made lewd and offensive comments to the girl and sexually harassed her.

The letter said the incidents occurred from November until early January while Knutson and the girl worked at a Sapulpa pizza restaurant.

The police chief said a report on the investigation into Knutson has been sent to Creek County District Attorney Max Cook, who will decide whether to file charges.

Unanimous council votes to replace Grove city manager

GROVE — Citing a need for a "change in the management of this city," the City Council this week said it is seeking a new city manager to replace Bill Galletly.

About 150 residents applauded Tuesday evening as city councilors returned from a nearly four-hour executive session and made the announcement.

Councilors voted unanimously to replace Galletly, who has been the city manager since 2003.

"I believe that Mr. Galletly agrees that the best interests of the city and its citizens would be faced by there being a change in the management of this city," Councilor Terry Ryan said, reading from a prepared statement.

Councilors would not elaborate. Galletly also would not comment on the decision, saying only that "it is time for the healing to begin."

Galletly will continue as city manager until a replacement is found unless the council and Galletly come to a mutual agreement to end his employment sooner, Ryan said.

If a replacement has not been found by Oct. 10, Assistant City Manager Debbie Mavity will be named city manager, Councilor Larry Parham said.

Three OKC hospitals given \$50,000 each for clinics

OKLAHOMA CITY — Three Oklahoma City hospitals will receive as much as \$50,000 each to start medical clinics to help poor and uninsured patients.

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation has announced grants to St. Anthony Hospital, the OU Medical Center and Integris South-west Hospital.

Hospital officials say indigent and uninsured patients often go to hospital emergency rooms for basic health care and are unable to pay for services.

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