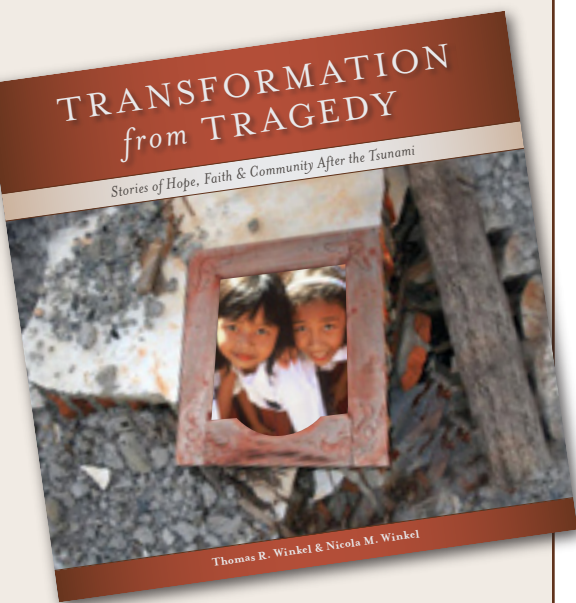


# TRANSFORMATION from TRAGEDY

*Stories of Hope, Faith & Community After the Tsunami*

**20% of book sales**  
go directly to  
the on-going tsunami  
relief effort in  
Aceh, Indonesia.



WRITTEN BY

*Thomas R. Winkel  
& Nicola M. Winkel*

WITH A FOREWORD BY

*President George H.W. Bush*

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## THE STORY:

Before December 26, 2004, Aceh (*ah-chay*), Indonesia, was a place embroiled in civil war, closed to foreigners, with a long-standing hostile view of the Western world. Then, the morning after Christmas, the largest natural disaster in recorded history devastated this isolated region.

After the earthquake and tsunami, the world came together to help and a transformation started in the hearts and minds of the people of Aceh. Told from the first-hand perspective of relief workers who provided trauma counseling to survivors, *Transformation from Tragedy* tells the story of how compassion broke down barriers as overwhelming need drew people together.

Experience the human story behind the headlines and a glimpse into the remarkable world of relief work. Come away with a deepened faith in humanity and the inspiration to get involved and do your part locally and around the world.

## THIS STORY IS FOR ANYONE WHO HAS EVER WONDERED...

### **What difference can one person make in the world?**

Follow the experiences of ordinary people who answered the call to serve in extraordinary circumstances.

### **How does a community recover when tragedy strikes?**

The scale of the tsunami disaster was unprecedented. This story takes the disaster from epic news story down to a one-on-one level, revealing the humanity behind the headlines.

### **Is there hope for peace in the world between different faiths?**

Unbeknownst to many, the tsunami disaster in Indonesia has resulted in cross-faith cooperation and friendship that could serve as a model for building bridges across barriers of culture, language, and faith.

### **How does my support of charitable causes help?**

It is estimated that 40% of Americans gave to tsunami relief. Gain a glimpse into the incredible and tangible effect charitable giving has, not only with people's practical and emotional needs, but also on their hearts and perception of Americans.

# TRANSFORMATION from TRAGEDY

160 FULL-COLOR PAGES

OVER 150 PHOTOGRAPHS

9 IN. X 9 IN.

DIE-CUT COVER



## the boy

Sunday, February 13, 2005

How many times have I sat in front of the television during the news, watching the violence and hatred toward America that exists around the world, and wondered, what would it take to change the minds of those who hate us? What could I say? What could I do? Would kind words and goodwill be enough? It turns out, in this case at least, they were enough.

Experience the heart of the survivors, who find hope to move forward despite loss.

Meet the people who worked on the front line of tsunami relief, bringing aid to those in need.

See the effect of the donations from 1 in 4 American households.

Learn about Indonesian culture and get to know the incredible people of this island nation.

Be inspired by how tragedy can be transformed.



Time:  
Late Afternoon

Place:  
Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Setting:  
Thomas accompanied a fellow relief worker to a musical and storytelling performance held to lift the spirits of the adults and children living in refugee camps. While there, he met a little boy and made an amazing connection.

Most survivors living in camps in Aceh live separately from 10-20% percent of their immediate and extended family, and almost all of their possessions. Despite the reality, the relief workers put a lot of effort into creating a positive atmosphere. There, children enjoy a variety of activities, including, education, and sports.

### photographic memory

"Thomas, take my picture!" One of my new friends, a relief worker from Jakarta, grabbed me over. A young skinny boy with hollow eyes stood slightly behind her. I recognize some of the faces of many of the children affected by the tsunami—my fellow rescuers.

I smiled at him and the young adult rescuer next to him. She may know her mother, a sister, or even a distant cousin, perhaps now the only

family he had remaining. His stare did not change and it registered with me that he was looking even more severely than one of the children.

I gladly set up to take his photo. But as I looked through the viewfinder of the camera, I clearly saw the boy's stare was no longer blank and numb. Now his eyes focused firmly on me. From his expression, I could tell he did not like what he saw. His eyes

pierced through the camera as though they were looking at me. Then, he brought out a low-top red plastic toy gun and started prying his arm and body to accommodate the

firing of the bullets into my body, his young face twisted in hatred. I could only pray for what to do next.

### music to my ears

Only weeks earlier, half of Banda Aceh was torn from itself during the earthquake and tsunami. Most people who lived through it believed they were cursed. It was the end of the world as they knew it.

A significant part of this change was the influx of regular people turned world and from other parts of Indonesia. Many of the workers I met along the way were young entrepreneurs that make up the nation of Indonesia. These young people were wearing clothing, and more often than not listened to Western music. Not the Mel Tillis, Hank Williams you'd see on American Idol. Instead, they were dressed in the style of the past, and a couple above. Despite their humble names, I encouraged them to sing loudly. The songs they sang were inspirational and one thing we definitely all needed was more encouragement.

On this particular day, one of my new friends told me about a Muslim musician from Banda Aceh. With the aid of a funny and entertaining storyteller, he was using music to bring laughter back to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. She thought we might like to meet and invited me to accompany her to the camp.

A group of us drove to the IDP camp and prepared to go in. I felt very uncomfortable walking into the camp. My previous visits to other camps were generally prepared with kind greetings and smiles from the residents in Indonesian. They smile for us, and we smile. They smile for us, and we smile. They smile for us, and we smile. They smile for us, and we smile.

"...I SMILED EVEN MORE. BUT IT SEEMED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. I RAN IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SOMETIMES CHANGE TAKES TIME AND HOPED THEIR SUSPICIONS WOULD EASE."

## THE CAUSE

A minimum of 20% of book sales go directly to the on-going relief effort in Aceh, Indonesia. Beneficiary organizations include the *Rising to Help* partnership between the City of Phoenix and Food for the Hungry, who together adopted the city of Meulaboh, Indonesia, with a ten year commitment to help restore and rebuild the community.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Thomas & Nicola Winkel are co-authors of *Transformation from Tragedy*. Married for eleven years, they are partners in life, business, travel, and writing. In 2005, they served together in Aceh, Indonesia, providing trauma counseling and training to tsunami survivors and relief workers. They are also authors of *Restoring Hope*, a trauma counseling curriculum. The Winkels make their home in Phoenix, Arizona.



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