



Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture



Use “The Scene” to introduce *High School Bible school Lesson 1*.

In Indonesia, tens of millions of people live on less than \$1 a day. But getting financial help and sound financial advice to these people often presents a challenge. One Indonesian author and motivational speaker found a way to meet that challenge.

Tung Desem Waringin employed an unusual approach to publicize his new book, *The Marketing Revolution*. While his plane circled repeatedly over a soccer field, Waringin dropped 1,000 and 5,000 rupiah bills (\$.11-\$.53 each) to the crowd below. By the end of this giveaway, the author had dropped 100 million rupiah (\$10,600) to the people who were looking to the sky for help.

Waringin has been quoted in his blog as saying he would rather share money earmarked for a conventional promotional campaign with people who needed it. Instead of opting for regular advertising for his book, he came up with an idea that “will make people happy.” Waringin explained, “I want to create a rain of money . . . It’s a little bit crazy, but it’s marketing.”

This was not the first time that this author has pulled an odd publicity stunt. Waringin pushed his first book, *Financial Revolution*, by riding through the country’s capital city on a white horse. The book became a best seller in 2005.

Many who have read Waringin’s books and who have attended his seminars believe that he has more than money to give away. “This man gave me my courage, my power, my dreams, and my self-confidence that I lost a few years ago,” raved one of the followers of the motivational specialist. “This is who I am now, a man with his dreams.”

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above news story to read. After all teens have had the opportunity to read the article, discuss it in this way:

Imagine that you were an Indonesian living on \$1 a day. With food and fuel prices rising, how would you feel? What challenges would you be facing? If you heard that this money giveaway was going to happen, what might you be willing to do to be a part of it?

What are some social barriers that would normally make it difficult for the very poor in Indonesia to get help from someone like Waringin? In our culture, what types of social barriers might keep people from getting help they need? Why are such barriers often difficult to cross?

Many citizens of Indonesia braved the tropical heat and crowds to be a part of Waringin’s rain of money. Perhaps some obtained his book or later attended a seminar in order to learn how to get lasting help.

Maybe this scene was similar in some ways to the desperation of societal outcasts seeking Jesus in His day. Today we will look at the case of such a man who sought Jesus’ help at that time. Let’s learn what barriers Jesus crossed then and how we can reach society’s outcasts with help in the name of Jesus today.