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interview availability

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Faith as a mustard seed

**Southeast Asia Director of Mustard Seed International provides
quality education in one of the poorest regions on earth**

WHAT: Despite Pew Research Center statistics showing Indonesia as having the largest percentage of the world Muslim population, **Paul Richardson**, Southeast Asia director for [Mustard Seed International](#), and his wife, Cyndi, consider it a blessing to live on the frontlines of the spiritual battlefield as they educate children in one of the poorest regions on earth.

WHO: Growing up in a small village located in the jungles of Irian Jaya, Indonesia, where his parents, Don and Carol, were missionaries, **Paul Richardson** later returned to the U.S. to finish his education and become a teacher for at-risk youth in California. When he was in his late 20s, Richardson felt a new calling into his life to share Christ in other parts of the world. The doors opened for him to return to the land of his youth and, he and his wife and three children moved to Indonesia to head up Charis Academy, a school that has become a model for state-of-the-art Christian education in the developing world.

Richardson works with Mustard Seed International as they primarily focus on education at their 30-plus mission sites throughout Southeast Asia. He is working with his indigenous team of leaders and other teachers to help mentor the youth of these areas to become the transformational leaders of the future. This solid educational, character-building background, in turn, allows them to have the intelligence, wisdom and integrity to transform their lives, their families, entire villages, and potentially, nations. His most recent book, "A Certain Risk: Living Your Faith at the Edge" (Zondervan), was published earlier this year.

TOPICS: Richardson can address:

- Missionary life in a Muslim country
- Educating youth in one of the poorest regions of the world
- Finding God's grace in the midst of difficult circumstances

- more -

**WHEN/
WHERE:** Available upon request by phone.

DETAILS: Across Southeast Asia, Mustard Seed International also sponsors children's homes, medical clinics, youth programs and drills water wells in remote jungle villages to provide clean drinking water and prevent disease. Throughout the region, Mustard Seed International is building new schools, recruiting and training indigenous teachers, developing educational curriculum and providing much needed care for orphaned and abandoned children and teenagers in special Mustard Seed International homes and youth centers.

Founded after World War II by missionary Lillian Dickson, MSI is headquartered in Charleston, S.C. Its goal is to send 100 percent of all contributions directly to MSI mission locations, rather than on administrative salaries. The leadership and administrative staff of MSI are all volunteers. They are a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). MSI goes to the places where they believe there is the greatest need, following Lillian's example to "present Christ to all we meet, to heal disease and all manner of suffering and to love sincerely and deeply those whose lives we are privileged to touch." For more information, visit <http://www.mustardseed.org>.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Julie Shultz at 972.267.1111 or via e-mail at julie@alarryross.com. Additional information about MSI is available at <http://www.mustardseednews.com>.