

AFTER THE TSUNAMI

Read the article about a disaster volunteer. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Paul Green tells us about dedicating his time and skills to helping victims of the 2004 Asian tsunami rebuild their homes.

I remember that day very clearly. It was 26 December 2004 and as we always did on this day, my friends and I had a barbecue, then went to the beach for a surf. We had a great day, completely unaware of the devastation that was about to be unleashed not so far from our hometown of Brisbane, Australia. When I returned home later that night, I heard the terrible news that a massive undersea earthquake in the Indian Ocean had triggered off a deadly tsunami. We would later learn, of course, that altogether it had killed around a quarter of a million people and left more than one-and-a-half million people homeless.

My friends and I had returned from a surfing trip to Indonesia earlier the same month, and I was particularly saddened by the destruction that occurred there, as I had felt a strong affection for the people I had met during my travels. (9) _____ I was later to learn that Indonesia had sustained the worst physical damage of all the countries affected by the tsunami.

At the time, I was a successful florist in the city center. I had spent years building up my client base and training staff. I really wanted to help, so I donated a percentage of the profits from my shop to the worst-affected areas in Indonesia.

(10) _____ I leased my business and flew

over to Indonesia.

I joined an organization of volunteers called *Shelter*, committed to rebuilding homes. After the tsunami, over 160 aid organizations and UN agencies began operations in Indonesia to provide shelter, food and schooling, so I wasn't alone.

Shelter's focus was on rebuilding homes.

(11) _____ I soon realized, however, that we weren't just rebuilding homes, we were creating hope for the future. I chose to join a housing charity, rather than a medical one, because I had previously trained as a carpenter and I believed I could make a difference with my talents. When I was a child, I was always fixing things. (12) _____ I was just the type of person *Shelter* was looking for. *Shelter* found a role for me on building sites, teaching construction skills to the locals and supervising the production of materials such as bricks and roofing tiles.

Disease was common because of poor water and sanitary conditions, so *Shelter* to move the homeless out of temporary camps and into permanent proper homes as soon as humanly possible. (13) _____ Many of the volunteers also suffered from these. I frequently experienced high fevers and rashes, and it was during these times that I most longed for the comforts of home.



Looking back, spending a year as a volunteer was the best decision I had ever made, but it wasn't easy. (14) _____ Most people were happy to help, but a few said that if I was going to drop out of "real life" for so long I'd have to finance my humanitarian adventures myself. There was also the sheer physical labor. By the end of the day I was both physically and mentally exhausted. Sometimes

my muscles ached so much that I couldn't imagine continuing the next day. Back home in Brisbane, I continue to support Shelter by giving presentations on my year abroad and spreading the word about their charitable work. (15) _____ I have also made countless lifelong friends. Furthermore, I am welcome in many homes in the area. My friends and I will definitely have somewhere to stay during our next surfing trip!

A Common illnesses suffered by disaster victims include diarrhea, fevers, skin irritations, respiratory infections and stomach problems.

B I hoped that they had all escaped unharmed.

C My story has inspired dozens of new recruits to sign up as volunteers.

D Many people had lost loved ones and the sorrow of the locals could be felt all around us.

E By the time I was in my twenties I could make furniture and had helped many friends with renovations and repairs to their homes.

F I had to live off my savings, and when they ran out I asked friends and family for loans.

G However, I soon realized that I wanted to do more than give money.

H 500,000 Indonesians didn't have a roof over their heads, so they were desperately needed.

