



September 29, 2009

Mike & Cindy Gingerich

September 27, 2009

Water Water Water...

This morning, after an all night rain, Cindy, Cana and I headed out, into Manila for Cana and Micah's Volleyball games. After Cana's game, we began getting messages that there was flooding around the city and that the boys' team was stranded on their way (Moriah is with them too).

This is the worst fooling in Manila since 82.

Latest word is that all the boys are planning to walk to one of the guy's homes. It will be about a two mile hike in the rain (and flooding). I'm not feeling too good about it so I wanted to ask you to pray. Well I just heard they made it.

Lydia is also on the road somewhere with friends.

Cana, Cindy, and I are held up at the school we were playing against, International School of Manila. It looks like we will be spending the night here.

Please pray for this city. It could get crazy.

Thanks,

Mike

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September 28, 2009 at 06:46

Cindy and I spent the night here at International School of Manila. It is a very beautiful school and not a bad place to be on a night like this. It is 6:30 AM and the rain is stopped. Flood waters are going down across city. From what I can learn online there are still some streets that are impassable but it looks like we have a clear route to go home. So the plan is to head out soon and so I wanted to send out an update before we head out.

13.4 inches of rain in 6 hours washed away many, many homes. I heard that an area of small homes and shops 5 minutes from my house (where I went to by rice the night before the flood) was completely washed away. There are many other places around the city that are as bad or worse. Please pray for us and other ministries here as we try to help.

My children are scattered around the city this morning.

Moriah is the only one at our house. He was planning to do a evangelistic basketball game at a jail near our house yesterday morning. We had thought He was with Micah but that turned out to be a case of the coach got names of my sons confused. Micah was stranded in a van full of volleyball players for a few hours then they all decided to walk to one of the other player's homes. He spent the night there. Lydia has had it the worst. She was on her way from a friend's house to school and wound up stuck in traffic for 8 hours. She said it was fun watching children play in the flood water. Cana was with mom and dad till a friend who lives very close to here called and asked her to spend the night there. Now we just need to get them all back home...sometime.

So since I hear we have no power or phone/internet at our house I wanted to send this out before we leave.

Praise God for his protection.

Thanks for your prayers,

Mike

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September 28, 2009 at 23:40

We did leave the school this morning hoping to get back across the water to our home but God had another adventure in store. We picked up Cana and two friends who spent the night at another friend's a couple stone throws from the school where we held over for the night. When we picked them up the one girl, Emily, was still complaining that her stomach hurt. As we drove, she began to moan and we began to realize it could be more serious.

Our plan was to stop at the missionaries' home where Micah spent the night, pick him up and head out for our home. But on the way we began getting text messages from those who had gone before us that the roads were still chest deep with water. When we got to the house we learned Micah and Emily's older brother Dan had left earlier with their volleyball coaches to try to get home. So we made a b-line for the hospital.

I communicated with Emily's parents (Phil and Julie DeHart) via text and text to FaceBook. Her parents live near us on the other side of the water. Cindy worked at getting Emily admitted and answering all the doctor's questions while I ran a small communication network from my cell phone.

Emily's mother, Julie, was determined to make it to the hospital. After trying one route and turning back, she rode with her husband as far as possible then with another missionary on his motorcycle. When the waters got too deep for the bike, she texted me that she could not make it. But, little did I know, she never gave up. Moments later she climbed on to an already overloaded row boat. After making it through the deepest waters in the boat, she continued on, wading through waist deep water.

Meanwhile her son Dan who had been sitting in traffic headed into the flood waters from the other side for four hours looked out and saw his rain-soaked mom. He had no idea what was happening with his sister so he thought she was crazy to be coming for him. Mom explained and the two trudged on to the hospital. A jeepney and two taxi rides later they arrived.

Four hours later, Emily's dad, Phil started along the route his wife had traveled earlier. He waded passed stalled cars and deadlocked traffic for a couple kilometers. When He reached the other side God had his transportation waiting. A Faith Academy graduate who plays basketball for another college in Moriah's league, just so happened to be out looking at the damage and spotted Phil. They jumped in his four wheel drive pickup and headed straight for the hospital.

After a few more hours of tests and answering doctors' questions Emily went into surgery at around 9PM. At that point Cindy, Cana, Dan and I came back to the missionaries' home where Dan and Micah spent last night. I just got word that Emily is out of surgery. The doctors said the appendix had already burst. My understanding is that they will pump her full of antibiotics to help ward off the infection. It could be a long recovery. Please pray for Emily. She is a sweet girl with blond curls and a bouncy personality to match. Please thank the Lord for the miraculous way he brought the DeHart family together and that we were there to watch Him work. It is always fun to see God do something bigger than us.

Pray that many more would see God at work in this storm.

He is surely here!

In the flood of His Mercy,

Mike

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