

October 12, 2009

Dearest brothers and sisters in Christ,

We praise and thank God for keeping us safe! You may have heard that Metro Manila including our place of residence (Rizal Province) got hit by typhoon "Ondoy". (Check our Multiply site at <http://aimhigh01.multiply.com/> to view some pictures we took.

**Saturday, Sept 26, 2009**, was like any ordinary day. Though we were warned of a storm signal #1 over Metro Manila, we were not concerned because the rain and wind were just like a regular day. We got alarmed when Susan got a text message that morning from the wife of a member of our Bible Study group who apparently was not home informing us that their house (5 min away from our place) is flooded with their children trapped inside. I immediately drove out to check on their children and was shocked to see the water rushing like a river towards their house almost completely submerged. As soon as I found a higher ground to park, I slowly walked through the strong current towards their front gate. A man who stood nearby yelled at me saying that the people in the house were picked up earlier and probably safe somewhere. I went back home to inform Susan of what I found out. Then we got another text message informing us that her husband is missing and might still be in the house. So I rushed to their place again. By this time I could only see the roof of their house above the water. I was able to slowly inch my way towards the steel gate. I held on to the bars and started calling out for our friend. About a minute later, he came out of the water in front of their house and worked his way towards my direction. We both sat on his submerged family van and talked. After a while, the water level had going down and so I drove back to our place to get some food and hot coffee and some clothes for him to change into.



**On Sunday, Sept 27, 2009**, we texted our pastor partners in Rizal how they might have been affected by this typhoon. Our partner in the lower part of Cogeo, Antipolo informed us that there was a landslide behind the school where some of his church members live. The houses were completely washed down and buried under the mud. Susan and I hurriedly bought some groceries (crackers, water, canned goods, rice, medicine, laundry soap, toothpaste) whatever we could afford to pack as relief goods. Amanda, Joshua, Susan and I got to work and packed 100 bags. We picked up our partner to visit the victims at their temporary shelter which were the classrooms in the public school nearby and gave them some relief goods. That same day, 10 people were dug out of the rubble, dead. Two of which were toddlers.



**On Monday, September 28**, after consulting with our mission's director Jeff Anderson, a limited amount of funds were available and was divided among us (ACTION missionaries). Praise God, we were able to continue to buy more relief goods to pack and distribute to areas where government and other agencies have not reached because of the magnitude of the damage.

We also called our sending church, Faith Bible Church of Vallejo, California and informed them of the needs for the typhoon victims. They later sent their relief fund donation to our USA Office for our ministry. We are so encouraged and blessed how we are one in mind, heart and purpose.



**Other resources provided by GOD:** In the middle of the week, GOD led us to seek help from CCF (Christ Commissioned Fellowship) and immediately got 600 relief bags. Through our peers, GOD led us to UCM (Union Church of Manila) and got 100 relief bags. Our two partner pastors (indigent churches) who helped us repack and distribute our relief bags also donated large sacks of used clothes & 2 sacks (50 kilos/sack) of rice all donated by their church members. Some of our relatives and friends also donated some used clothes, blankets, and some pairs of shoes

***God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. 2Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. - Psalm 46:1-3***



Amanda did her part, too. Houses of missionaries from different organizations residing in Cainta, Taytay, Marikina and Antipolo were flooded too. Faith Academy (school for missionary's kids) helped other missionaries clean up the mud, oil and garbage brought by the flood inside their houses. It will take awhile before these houses are completely cleaned out. With their houses completely destroyed, some are now temporarily living with other missionaries while looking for a place to move. Aside from helping other missionaries in cleaning up, Amanda together with some of her teachers and schoolmates did some relief goods distribution in Cainta and Taytay, Rizal. Amanda, came home teary eyed telling Susan how different it was touching and seeing it with her own eyes than hearing or talking about it. The damage to their houses was unbelievably overwhelming.

After **2 weeks of relief distribution (Sept 27-Oct 9)**, all Philippine ACTION missionaries will meet to assess the needs in order that we could plan our next move. A team of short term missionaries from different churches back in the States will arrive soon to work with us as we do our follow ups.

**Please pray:**

- Restoration and rebuilding the lives of the typhoon victims and that they will feel God's love and come to know Jesus Christ and accept Him as their Lord and Savior.
- That government officials, leaders and workers will channel the relief funds and goods to the right places and people.
- Strength and good health for all the volunteers
- That God will continue to touch the heart of the people that have the means to give/donate for the typhoon victims
- For God to stop the typhoons from coming because some parts of country are still flooded.



Confused and lost hope.



Reading her Bible tract.

To those who wish to give a financial donation for our ministry to the typhoon victims, please send it to ACTION USA and indicate ***"Relief Funds for Rafael & Susan Sison ministry"***

Thank you for your prayers and support that you are extending to our family and our ministry. May the Lord richly bless you as you continue to bless others.

To GOD be all the glory and honor and praise,

*Raffy, Susan, Amanda and Joshua Sison*