



Dear Praying Friends,

As you may know we have been extremely busy providing relief aid to the victims of typhoon Ondoy since she caused much death, damage and devastation throughout Metro Manila and surround provinces September 26. Mary Ann and I sent you reports previously and I will send you a summary of our activities which I wrote October 27 to you separately from this letter. Of course our other ministry responsibilities continue as well as personal lives so here are brief reports, answers to prayer and requests for more aside from our relief work. **Thank you so very much** for your prayers and giving! God is using you mightily in the lives of many here and each of you are a rich blessing to us.

1. Cagayan De Oro Camp: Dave and Becky Majam are serving at our camp in Cagayan De Oro city this week for street kids. There are 101 campers, 43 church workers with seven churches participating. Pray that many kids will come to a saving knowledge of Christ and be joined to the participating churches through the loving ministry of their workers and pastors.

2. Member Care Retreat: October 17-20 we had a member care retreat for several new missionaries who were available to attend. We had a good time just being together, getting to know one another better, prayer and time in the Word at a nice Christian camp in the country. For me personally it was a chance to get away from the stagnant smelly water, mud, garbage, stress and strain of our relief work. I was able to sleep and eat well as well as enjoy fresh air and the green environment.

3. Alternative Learning System Exam: October 24, 66 former and current street kids and some adults took the annual ALS exam and they are now waiting for the results. It is a **huge** accomplishment that they would even be in a place take the exam let alone pass it, which we expect several will. I thank God for the many church volunteers who lovingly and patiently tutor their young students and prepared them for this exam. Those that pass can advance to their next level, may it be elementary to high school or high school to higher education. Those who may fail can retake it next year. We emphasize there are no failures, only life-long learners!

4. 2010 Ministry Proposals and Budgets: October 22-23 our Council and I had full but good days meeting with ACTION missionaries going over their faith goals for next year. As the Field Director, I am very pleased with their work and to serve this fine group of dedicated servants of the Lord Jesus. November 9 we will meet again as several of us, including me, will present our faith goals and all of this is in preparation for our Board meeting on the 24th for final approval.

5. UK Trip: November 29 to December 3 I'll be attending the steering committee meeting of the 180° Global Alliance of which we've written about over the past few years. I have been a steering committee member since 180°'s inception in '05 and we have much to discuss and pray about as we plan for the future. To know more about 180, log on to our website at:

<http://www.180degreesalliance.org>

6. Ober da Bakod washed away: Previously we've written about this squatter community located along the polluted San Juan River where we recently started a Fish and Bread Feeding Program, ALS classes and started Bible studies for all ages. All of the shanties in this community were literally washed away by Ondoy and recently all of the 278 families have been relocated to a resettlement site in Bulacan Province just north of Manila. Hopefully along with shelter the families will be provided their other basic needs like jobs, schooling, and the like or we will see them again someday in Metro Manila I'm sure as this is where they eked out a living. Such is the life of the urban poor.

7. Upcoming wedding of our daughter Micah to Daniel Scott: Danny and Micah arrived here October 9 and it has been great having them with us. As we have previously shared, they asked Mary Ann and me if they could have a "special relationship" and we gave them permission to do so. The other day Danny asked me if he could marry Micah and I was pleased to say yes. So they are now engaged to be married January 9, '10. The wedding will be held on Whidbey Island at the C&MA Church. As you also know, Micah was accepted as a career missionary with ACTION in September and Danny has been working as the assistant to our International Director, Nelson Reed, based in the ACTION office in Mountlake Terrace, WA. They will continue serving with Nelson in the foreseeable future while they establish their home and seek the Lord for His assignment with ACTION somewhere in the world. Currently Danny is in India with Nelson and his wife Linda and will be going on to Nepal after which he will return to Manila November 22. Micah is with us working on wedding plans with Mary Ann then Micah and Danny will return to Seattle the 27th in order to get an apartment and prepare themselves for their lives together.

Mary Ann and I will be going to Minnesota December 22 and will be there until January 4 in order to rest and be with family. Amos will join us December 25-31 so it will be good to see him too for a few days. January 4 Mary Ann and I will go to Seattle to help the kids with wedding plans and meet Danny's family, for me the first time. We will return to Manila the 10th. We praise God for Micah and Danny, for their dedication to the Lord and His bringing them together. Pray for them please, and us.

Speaking of Amos, we understand he is doing well at his new job, learning much and his church Trinity Baptist in Pasadena has a new pastor. Again, it will be great to see him in December.

### **Conclusion:**

While we've been ministering to the victims of Ondoy, and entering into their suffering, I have

found time to think and contemplate even though my body, mind and heart have been under great stress, pressure and fatigue as we trudged through the devastation and bore the burdens of those we minister to. Here are a few reflections:

1. In the midst of a disaster it always takes a leader to mobilize people and resources so that we can respond quickly with compassion.
2. A plan of operation needs to be developed very fast, often times on our feet which needs to be based in accountability, integrity and flexibility.
3. God's "little armies of compassion" are nimble, generous with their time, talents and treasure and are motivated by love and kindness. We work face to face even though we are in the midst of the press of the crowd.
4. It **always** takes people on the ground in the disaster zone to get the job done but we are **dependant** on the prayers and giving of God's people around the world or we will be stalled.
5. As we bear the burdens of the suffering, we **must** do our work in such a way that we point them to Jesus.

Matthew 5:16 NASB says "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Thank you for bearing our burdens because as helpers we need help so we can continue helping others.

Sincerely in Christ,

Jeff

"Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts."  
--Is 26:8 NIV

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