



**September 30, 2009**

**Dear Praying Friends,**

It has been a month! But by God's grace and your prayers we carry on with our responsibilities and the joy of the Lord remains our strength. Daily we pray for wisdom, God's material supply, strength and mercy. He is a good God. The following are updates for your continued informed prayer as well as praises for answered prayer.

**1. Typhoon Ketsana relief update**

As you recall our last letter to you was about Metro Manila being pummeled by this record-breaking storm which has caused lots of damage, death and grief. To date there are 304 dead, almost 400,000 sheltering in schools, churches and evacuation centers, 1.9 million adversely affected one way or another, US\$31.5 million of infrastructure damage as well as US\$18.7 million of agricultural damage. Now Ketsana is causing havoc in Vietnam and Cambodia as this is one of the strongest storms to pass through southeast Asia in years. Since Saturday our apartment has been an HQ as we have been handling communications locally and internationally, a house of prayer and place of hospitality. We have been very fortunate that our power and communication tools have remained steady. Since our apartment is on the 10th floor of a sturdy building, we personally have been unaffected. Since Sunday morning until now I have been working the phones and crunching numbers as we trust the Lord for a minimum of \$38,000 for relief operations over the next several days. By Friday we need to make a payment of \$29,032 for an order of supplies we placed so we are trusting God for a miracle. If you would like to give toward this urgent need, send a check to the nearest ACTION office (address below) or you may send it electronically via this link: <http://actioninternational.org/index.php?page=ministries&item=89>. The balance of this budget will be used for other relief needs and I emphasize, this is bare-bones budget.

By the way, there are two typhoons brewing east of the Philippines now that will pass our way in the next few days so we are praying that they will miss us. Our team is already exhausted. I wish I had space to tell you the stories of things our people are going through. Many were stranded for one or two nights at the airport, in a shopping mall, at a school, at other people's homes, in cars on the road, on top floors of their homes. Several had flooding in their homes. One missionary's home had water in it 12 feet high. Three or four staff homes flooded. For those who were not affected, they have been intensely involved in helping those who were. The other ministry needs do not wait either. Mary Ann and I would love to be able to treat each staff and missionary in some special way when this is all said and done. They are such gamers and serve the Lord with total dedication and faithfulness. We are humbled to serve with them. Thank you for standing with us in these trying but great days for the gospel and compassionate care.

**2. Emily DeHart**

In the midst of the typhoon and aftermath, Emily DeHart, daughter of missionaries Phil and Julie, was admitted to a hospital for an emergency appendectomy. In God's providence, she was on the side of the

flooding where the best hospitals are located so the people she was with at the time were able to bring her to the hospital. It took us awhile to get into communication with her parents but eventually we connected with them. Her mom finally made her way to the hospital by taking a motorcycle, rescue boat, jeepney and 2 taxis as well as plenty of walking in flood waters. Her dad was able to come later after walking 2 km and by God's providence he was found and picked up by a friend who was able to drive him the rest of the way. Emily's appendix had ruptured but the surgery was successful. She is on heavy antibiotics now. Even as we were writing this update Julie put out a plea for prayer for a necessary procedure that Emily was worried about. Please pray for this beautiful 14 year old's full recovery.

### **3. Eden Zacal's surgery**

You may recall about a year and a half ago Eden Zacal, wife of my co-worker and long-time friend Luv who is ACTION's social worker, had major surgery to remove bone growth from her sinus area. Last Thursday she had another major surgery to remove potential killer abscesses that had been forming for about 6 months around the titanium screws for a plate that was put in her head during her first surgery. It was discovered that if this infection was not taken care of immediately, she was in grave danger. But praise God she has come through this recent surgery fine. ACTION was able to contribute about \$4,400 toward their medical bills. Caring for his wife has caused Luv to be out of the office for several days which has been a challenge since Luv is my key relief and development man. But Eden told me by phone on Monday, "Bro. Jeff, thank you for your prayers and help. I'm okay now and Luv can go to work today." I praise God for Eden and Luv.

### **4. Pastor Sam Sandoval's sudden home-going**

Last Thursday I received word that my friend and co-worker, Pastor Sam Sandoval of Living Bread Baptist Church, died suddenly of cardiac arrest after preaching. Pastor Sam was a powerful preacher, faithful to the Word and a soul-winner. Years ago when I needed a Filipino evangelist for our street children camping ministry, he was referred to me so he became involved in many of our activities over the years. In his final message Wednesday he said, "We should preach as if it would be our last, just like I am now. I am preaching as if this will be my last message. Remember this outline. This could be my last." Sam was 48 and had 4 kids with his faithful wife Lenny. Two of their children died early so he leaves behind a wife and two children. Sam was a faithful trainer of young pastors so his message will live on.

### **5. Real Wilderness Campsite Update**

We continue to develop our wilderness campsite in Capalong, Real, Quezon as money is available. However we are running very short and have needed to stop construction on our bathroom / shower building, lay off two faithful workers but are retaining Pastor Benny Roque to look after the property. If you would like to give toward this project, we would be grateful. On a brighter note, the Real Christian Church, which was a direct result of our relief and development work and is led by Pastor Benny, will be recognized formally as a church by the Conservative Baptist of the Philippines in October so this is a huge blessing.

### **6. Proposals / budgets and staff performance evaluations**

This month I wrote 7 ministry proposals and budgets for which I am responsible for to be presented to our Council and Board in October and November respectively. Our goal is to conduct our ministries by faith but also with good planning. I also did performance evaluations for six of our Filipino staff whom I work with daily. Each one, Nerie, Frank, Elna, Dave, Becky and Luv, is a joy to know and serve the Lord with. We also brought back Ann Magalong to serve as my secretary and Mary Ann's assistant with Human Resource matters and she has been a great help. If you recall Ann's husband Pastor Jun went to be with the Lord about a year and a half ago.

## **7. Cagayan De Oro Camp**

Weather permitting, October 27-30 we will have a camp for street children in Cagayan De Oro City. Pray as our faithful brethren there are preparing the logistics for camp and our team is preparing here.

Note: In the midst of all this activity I was notified last week that our Street Impact Team which handles our camping, Fish and Bread Feeding, Christmas Evangelistic Party ministry and Relief and Development, will most likely need to vacate our current office in October or November because the building is going to be sold. This is the last thing we need right now because it will be a major disruption. So pray that we will find a suitable office because we are now looking.

## **8. Micah accepted as ACTION career missionary, she and Danny Scott coming to Manila**

In September our daughter Micah was accepted as a career missionary with ACTION for which we thank God. Her field and type of ministry are yet to be determined. She and her friend Danny Scott (ACTION missionary and assistant to Nelson Reed our International Director) will be arriving here October 9 to serve with us for several weeks. As a matter of fact we are considering asking them to come a few days early to help with our relief work. Pray for Micah as she is now raising support and working on her master's degree in Human Services at Liberty University. It'll be great to have them both with us!

## **9. Update on Amos**

Amos enjoys his work with Protabit in Pasadena. We pray for him daily that he will be a witness for Christ and do his work well.

## **10. Our Roseville, MN apartment**

We request prayer so we know what to do with our apartment as it is now vacant. It has been a great blessing since we purchased it in 2004. It is our desire that it be used by a missionary on furlough.

## **Closing**

I said last Sunday night during our prayer meeting for a few ACTION missionaries at our place "the Lord is testing our team because many things are happening." We then read Isaiah 43:2 (NKJV) "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you." We are putting our entire weight these days on this promise and God is faithful. Pray for us please as we serve Him in the midst of the flood waters.

Sincerely in Christ, your hands and feet in Manila,

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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