



MUSTARD SEED DISCIPLESHIP VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

ACTION International Ministries, Philippines

October 5, 2009

Prayer Update: September 27 to October 4, 2009

Sunday: *It was a day to stay at home and inside and dry, as typhoon Ondoy plowed through the region. The photos of the damage and devastation began Sunday morning, even with rain still falling. Over 16 inches fell in the Manila area in less than 12 hours. Where I live, we are much higher so though we had the rain and wind, we didn't have the flooding and wind damage. PRAISE: that we didn't have any damage from the typhoon.*

Monday: *Our students were able to come to school and were able to report that there was little flooding in each of their areas. We gave praise for this. Not so, though, for our dorm mom Mervi. Her home had waist high water and mud inside. They lost mattresses, clothing, a washer and other things in the home. She spent the week at home washing and cleaning. PRAY: as they need some repair work done to their home and still clean up in their area*

Tuesday to Thursday: *With Mervi at home, our other dorm mom Iree, took the reigns and kept things going at the dorm. We all kept watch on the Typhoon2000 website as word of another typhoon coming dominated our thinking. We saw three of them lined up and headed to the country, the first to arrive by the weekend.*

By Thursday we thought that we needed to end classes early, mainly because of heavy rains that arrived on Thursday afternoon. So the girls packed up (in fact, all of our students got ready to go home.) and I dropped them off at the bus stop, staff as well, and they headed home.

After much prayer, the typhoon, Pepeng, a super typhoon – cat 4, did not arrive in our region. Its track was diverted to the northern end of the country. Very little rain fell in our region over the weekend. Also, by the time the typhoon arrived it was downgraded to a cat 3. As it passed, it dropped to a cat 2 storm.

The other two storms will not even come into the Philippine area of responsibility. We continue to praise God, Lord of all creation, that Pepeng didn't hit here.

Friday: *It was quiet here with no students. We waited for the storm that didn't arrive.*

Today: *All of our students returned to class. Mervi was back as well with stories to share of what happened to her family. All are safe and they are back in their home.*

Barb's Update: *This batch has presented many challenges. For me it has been very stressful and my sleep patterns have not been good. Last July I was diagnosed with burnout. Since then, working with a specialist, my sleep is much better and I am dealing with the stress much better. I am still working with a doctor but also have been able to continue working with our students. PRAY: that things will be made right soon.*

Thank you for your continued prayers for students and staff. We are headed towards graduation, December 12, and look forward to celebrating with their families this wonderful event. We will be distributing application forms for Batch 5 sometime in November and look forward to meeting applicants in January.

Blessings, Barbara Burchert, Mustard Seed

If you would like to give you can make checks payable to Action International Ministries, P. O. Box 398 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 or 3015 A 21st Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1, Canada. Note that your check is for support of Barbara Burchert.