



Official Newsletter

The Voice of the Spirit

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“Struck Down but Not Destroyed:” A Personal Reflection of the Killer Typhoons that Hit Northern Luzon

“As the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.”

(2 Cor. 1:5, KJV 2011)

(Translated by Military Chaplains)

During the month of October we experienced three cyclones that hit Northern Luzon, Philippines. Perhaps no Filipino, especially the Ilocanos in the north, will forget the devastating effect of the typhoons. Who could forget the hundreds of lives that were lost? A week after a cyclone hit the Metro Manila area and Southern Tagalog, it was followed by two cyclones that



created devastating effects in Northern Luzon.

We just had a meeting in Pico La Trinidad, taking a special offering for the first five casualties of a landslide at Beckel Assembly of God, when it was succeeded by two additional cyclones that hit Northern Luzon. I was planning to go to Beckel to

give the small amount of money from Verna Linzey Child Care Ministry International (VLCCMI) when two additional landslides erupted near the place where we were staying. The roads going to Beckel was blocked by two landslides, thus we could not attend nor visit the families that died. So we channeled our donations through Asia Pacific Theological Seminary (APTS), which closely monitored the victims and constantly encouraged our community to allocate donations for the victims. During the typhoon, it was quite dangerous to travel. The secure routes were unknown. After the second cyclone, Lamut Assembly of God invited me to speak in their service. I did not think I was



going to have time to preach because many people shared their experiences with the typhoon. There were cries as they testified at the pulpit. Our hearts were torn apart as we experienced these events happening in front of us.

During the typhoon, Brgy Longlong and Puguis La Trinidad became the center of attraction for the media because of the major landslide that took place in the area. The landslide killed less than a hundred lives. Overall there were 1,000 lives taken during the three cyclones. They mostly came from Puguis Assembly of God, pastored by Rev. Walter Caput. I was horrified to know when Brother Toklo Caput Jr, showed me the pictures he had



taken after the landslide.

In Benguet, half of the casualties were Assemblies of God church members. Bodies of the members were placed in the church for few days before they were buried. There were families who died on the spot without any survivors. Their

relatives were the ones who buried them. While visiting the place where the major landslide took place, I saw a lot of houses destroyed, roads were blocked by mud and rocks, farms and the livelihood of the local people were totally devastated.

Pentecostal churches never stopped collecting offerings for the victims during and after the typhoon. After the typhoon the General Council of the Assemblies of God conducted a Critical Incident Stress Management and trauma counseling. Afterward, a “Healing Crusade” with Dr. Grace Kim, the wife of David Yonggi Cho in Korea, was conducted. All of us at APTS participated in helping the victims in our own way.

We want to thank you for the prayers and financial support you extended to us. Blessings!

Pastor Joel Tejedo
Internation Director, VLCCM

Please make donations to:
AGWM
1445 Boonville Ave.
Springfield, MO 6580

Please write “VLCCMI” on the Memo section of checks.

Contact Information:
THE VERNA LINZEY CHILDCARE
MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL
Rev. Joel A. Tejedo
APTS, 444 Ambuklao Rd. Baguio City, 2600
E-mail: vlccmi2007@yahoo.com
Phone: 011 918733495
Website: vlccm.org