

## **Baptist Global Response in the Philippines**

These are Stan's impressions as he traveled through some of the devastated areas last week, two months after the super typhoon which tore across the central part of our nation and almost three months after the earthquake:

### **Life springing up...in typhoon-struck Leyte...**

As our plane approached Tacloban, Leyte, whose buildings were blown away in the November super-typhoon, it was raining and windy. Without a control tower the pilot had some unique challenges, especially when he discovered there was a stalled vehicle on the runway. We circled for a second try at landing, and made it.

Seeing the 220,000 populated capitol city returning to life was encouraging. One restaurant owner told us that the typhoon and flooding was bad, but even worse was the damage done by looters right after the storm.

The home of our IMB personnel, Carl & Suzie Miller, was shared with a Filipino family who lost everything...and almost lost their 3 young daughters. The 4-year- old (picture below) was caught in the 13-18 foot storm surge, taken under water for far too long, and given up for dead when she was pulled from the flood. Her mama placed her cold, blue body on a floating piece of plywood, while she swam around seeking her other daughters. The child suddenly coughed and revived. All three daughters were spared. God be praised!



Thick electrical posts snapped in the typhoon's violent wind and surge. Five ships were grounded on shore. One huge ship is stuck between the road and a nice house it managed to miss. Workers were busy trying to figure the whole mess out.



Baptist Global Response is gearing up for long-term development as the short-term relief organizations pull out. There is much work to do as we survey areas farther from town who have been neglected but desperately need help as they try to rebuild their lives.

### **...in earthquake-damaged Bohol...**

After our travels on Leyte, we caught a boat to Bohol Island where the 7.2 earthquake struck in mid-October, just 3 weeks prior to the super typhoon. We have helped 100 families get basic building materials for rebuilding their homes.



In one place we visited a sink hole that had suddenly swallowed up a home and family, killing 4 family members. We met the surviving 17-year old son, who had watched his family perish. He had been in the part of the house that didn't fall into the giant hole. As we prayed with him and his uncle, we asked the Lord to show Himself to them and become their personal Lord.



We visited towns where 450-year old Spanish-build cathedrals collapsed into dust. Shaken lives expressed deep thanks for our being there, loving them with help and the hope of the Gospel.

### **God bringing great good out of great bad...**

Back on Cebu Island we traveled 3 hours north to the tip of Cebu where we caught a small boat over to Gibitngil Island. Volunteers from Southern Baptist Disaster Relief state conventions are working to repair and rebuild the 500-pupil school. So far, teams from Missouri, California, Georgia, and now Louisiana have become island celebrities as they brought in tools and a generator to work with the grateful island villagers...who are amazed that these followers of the Lord Jesus would come so far to serve them.



We have prayed for these central islands for years as the work is hard and slow among people who have zeal without knowledge. Could it be that God is going to bring the light of the truth through such great disasters? Only He could do that! Please keep praying to that end!

Gratefully,

Stan & Dottie