

Siloam's response to the Philippines typhoon emergency

Project:
070



Where will they go?

How will they feed their children?

19th November 2013

Dear Siloam friends

It's been almost impossible to turn your TV on recently without being confronted by so many heartrending images about the catastrophic typhoon that struck the Philippines on Friday 8th November. Literally hundreds of thousands of homes have been utterly destroyed and the news reports are saying that maybe 10,000 or more lives have been lost!!

How should we react in such an emergency? How can we help being so far away? What should our response be???

Although Siloam is not known as an emergency relief agency, we can bring help to areas of the world where our projects are located. In the past we have played an important role in helping to alleviate suffering after the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami in South India as well as the 2010 tragedy in Haiti.

Our Southeast Asia Representative and volunteer Mr Don Foster who is well experienced in disaster relief had only just returned from the Philippines when the current tragedy struck. Don knows firsthand the co-workers that we can trust to dispense the aid in the form of money and goods that we are planning to send. Indeed, financial support has already been sent and this has helped several families in the area where we are working on the island of Lyte.

Our main contact for this Philippine typhoon emergency is Pastor Ken Tagud who heads up a very effective and respected church which thankfully was not damaged too badly in the storm.

Ken and his co-workers have good experience in working not just where they are

Turn over →

"When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out"

Romans 15:13 (N.I.T)

Siloam Christian Ministries

FREEPOST, Box 4198, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 9BP Tel: 01926-335037
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but also in the outlying islands where Siloam has recently supplied another boat for them to conduct their evangelistic and social work ministry.

In addition to this we are also arranging for containers to be sent from Hong Kong by 'Cross Roads' an organisation based in former barracks occupied by the British Army. 'Cross Roads' are desperate for more funding so that more aid containers with food and emergency supplies can be forwarded. What the Philippine people are asking for right now is clothing, bed sheets, shoes, flashlights and of course food and water purification tablets and equipment. Rice should be available in other parts of the Philippines but the cost of moving it at this time is hampered because of the scarcity of fuel for the vehicles.

The infrastructure on the island of Lyte has been terribly disrupted. People are just not able to leave even by air, there are long queues at the airport as we all have seen on our TVs. There is no shelter either but more importantly there is still a shortage of food and clean drinking water is hard to find.

But, with your help Siloam can supply Pastor Ken along with his caring staff with funds to purchase food and water to meet some of the urgent needs in his locality right now. Other aid will follow on which will be used for rebuilding this area of the country and provide long term help.

As we shall be working with the Philippine churches, our food and aid will also be dispensed along with comfort and concern so we can share with families the love and healing power of Jesus Christ.

Thankfully, other Siloam funded projects, the Rehoboth Children's home and the Wheels of Life School in a Cart ministry have not been so badly affected so this time we want to help Pastor Ken Tagud as an expression of our Christian love to these desperate people.

Please join us by praying for the injured victims of this tragedy and ask God to work through His church in the Philippines to bring healing in the midst of this crisis.

We need gifts of £5, £10, £50, £100 or even £1,000. Your gift will make an impact when combined with other gifts to help in this emergency crisis. Even though folk are suffering here in the UK from the financial cutbacks and the general escalating prices, we haven't as yet suffered the same kind of tragedy that occurred in the Philippines on Friday 8th November.

I don't believe I should say anymore so I will allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you and suggest how you should respond.

But remember, just £10 could make a real difference for a family in the Philippines right now.

Sincerely yours on behalf of those in the Philippines your love will touch

Richard Norton
Director-Siloam UK



P.S. There have been many reports of people committing crime as they search for food and water. Several homes have been burgled and houses have been looted – but I wonder how we would fare in a similar crisis??

Last year I remembered visiting a former cold war nuclear bomb shelter deep in the heart of Essex. Even there weapons were stored to prevent folk (like you and me) outside from gaining access to the shelter, to get food and water!!

I am praying that your heart has been touched as you reach for your wallet or cheque book – thank you for caring.

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