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rothers, sisters and friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ with these solemn words: “When the nations are gathered before Him [Christ], there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering.” – The Desire of Ages, p. 637.

News of the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Haiyan fills our hearts with sadness and compels me to turn to you with an urgent plea for help for our storm-battered brothers and sisters in the Philippines.

The most violent storm ever to make landfall laid waste to swathes of the country, killing thousands, with huge waves sweeping away entire coastal villages and devastating the city of Tacloban. Many other towns have also been destroyed, leveled, or devastated. In some areas, buildings, churches, and hospitals have all been destroyed, and most of the roads are impassable. Decomposing and stinking bodies of the dead litter the streets or remain trapped in the debris.

Haiyan has “affected” a total of 9.5 million people across the Philippines and displaced at least 600,000, according to the U.N. Let me describe some of the physical dimensions of this storm. If it had hit the west coast of the US, it would have covered an area from the Canadian border to the Mexican border. Based on satellite imagery, the U.S. military’s Joint Typhoon Warning Center estimated that Haiyan’s winds reached a sustained peak of 195 mph shortly before it made landfall, with gusts rising to 235 mph. More powerful than Hurricane Katrina, it was the equivalent of a category 5 hurricane. Its center, the “eye,” had an unbelievably low pressure of 858 mb [millibars], which created a storm surge of twenty feet. One survivor described the storm as a “tornado which lasted over four hours.”

I have written to Brothers Galicia and Cortes in the Philippines and so far have heard from Brother Galicia. He was not able to tell me much about our brothers and sisters there, because all sources of communication have been cut off. However, he was thankful to be able to report that his mother-in-law and brother-in-law, his family, and retired minister Dahunan’s family were able to escape the terrible catastrophe by climbing to the roof and thus avoiding the storm surge, though exposed to strong winds. He was able to receive this information because they had moved to a distant, safer location. Brother Galicia writes also that last month the country was struck by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake which caused great damage in the islands of Bohol and Cebu, affecting the brethren and causing cracks in their church union building. He expresses his hope with these comforting and encouraging words: “The quick succession of calamities only tells us of the approaching steps of our long-awaited, soon-appearing Lord Jesus Christ.” He will send us...
updates, so we can be informed of the people's needs of our help and prayers.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us lift our heartfelt prayers to the Majesty of heaven on behalf of the Philippine people as well as members of our faith family! As the newly elected leader of the Good Samaritan Department of the American Union, I fervently hope our hearts and consciences may be so moved that, in the spirit of Heaven, we will respond generously and wholeheartedly to this appeal for help for those who have lost so much.

“Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” Matthew 25:40. “Search heaven and earth, and there is no truth revealed more powerful than that which is made manifest in works of mercy to those who need our sympathy and aid.” – Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 137.

May you be blessed, for great and precious promises are made to those who give!

Here are two ways to help:
1) Give to the Good Samaritan organization by using your church tithes and offerings envelope and marking “Philippines” next to the Good Samaritan line. These donations will go directly to help our church members.
2) Donate to World Vision

Southeastern Field
Children’s Conference
Camp Allen Retreat Center
December 13-15, 2013
18800 FM 362 Road, Navasota, TX 77868
(936) 825-7175

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice”
Philippians 4:4.

Dear children, dear youth, dear parents! May the peace and grace of our Lord be with you! With the words of the above text we invite you to join the Houston and Dallas churches for the upcoming children’s and youth camp in Navasota, Texas, Friday, December 13-Sunday, December 15, 2013. The theme is “Joy.” Worship services, Bible-related study topics, songs, activities in nature, crafts, campfires, play times, walks, vegan meals, separate workshops for youth and children, plus family seminars for adults will provide all that is necessary to make our children happy during this program!

Group lodging is available with a total of 64 beds. (Be sure to bring your own linens.) There will be a flat $50 charge for each person aged three years and older who stays at the campground. This covers all camp fees for the entire weekend. Those who visit only during the day will be charged $10 per day, per person.

Give your children and youth the opportunity to form happy childhood memories by spending time with Christian families to learn about God! We pray for a happy time and appropriate weather and that the Lord’s presence will be the JOY of each day during the conference.

Register by mailing your payment to:
International Missionary Society
C/o Elsa Enid Tapia, 920 SW 18th Avenue
Miami, FL 33135

Make your checks payable to IMS, marked for the “Children’s Youth Camp, Texas 2013.” If you have questions, please contact Sister Lisbeth Hunger at 770-715-0419 or lisbethhunger@yahoo.com.
Missionary Minute:  
Defending the Fatherless  
God’s Tenderest Mission Field  
Margie Seely, Cedartown, GA

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” James 1:27, NIV.

Six-year-old Vanya lay on his rubber sheet, gazing glassy-eyed at the wall as the hours ticked slowly by. Clad in only a thin shirt, he had curled his naked, crippled legs up under him so they would not touch the piles of his own waste contaminating his crib. He was six years old and did not want to soil his bed. But the workers at this mental asylum had no time to take him to the toilet, and he was not allowed to leave his crib by himself. He hoped someone would come soon to clean his mattress. He blinked his tears away and tried again to remember what his friend Vika had told him before he was sent away from the orphanage.

“Do you know who lives up there, Vanya?” Vika scooped him up and pointed out the window. Vanya peered curiously up into the clouds and shook his head. “God lives up there,” Vika smiled. “If you are ever afraid, ask Him to help you. He will send your guardian angel to protect you.” Vanya smiled at the memory. How he missed Vika. She came every week to the orphanage to spend time with him and some of the other children. She always had a warm smile and a hug for him and sometimes she would even sing a song or bring special treats. At the mental asylum there was no one to take notice of Vanya. He was just one more of Russia’s disabled orphan children, living out his days in a room lined with the cribs of other disabled children, waiting for their turn to die.

But, Vanya didn’t want to die. He wanted to live! He wanted to love and to be loved! He wanted a family and a home! He wanted to know who this God was that Vika had spoken about. Vanya tried to look out the window of his ward, but his blinds were tightly shut so everything remained in darkness. How can I ask God to help me, Vanya thought to himself, when I can’t even see the sky? Alone in his thoughts, he felt forsaken by the world. Was he also forgotten by God?

Suddenly a friendly face appeared above him. “Hello!” a stranger smiled. Vanya perked up as a man danced from crib to crib, playing happy melodies and singing to the children. Vanya pulled himself up on the side of his crib, his eyes fixated on this marvelous man. Vanya simply had to be noticed. “Excuse me, please,” Vanya called, waving to get the man’s attention. “Excuse me!” Already angry workers were shouting at the man, telling him he had no permission to be there and no right to disturb the children. “Get out!” they yelled. “Excuse me, Mister!” Vanya pleaded, terrified that the man might leave before Vanya had a chance to speak with him. “Excuse me! Excuse me!”

Miraculously, amidst the shouting and confusion, the man did notice Vanya. Despite the angry threats from asylum workers, he strode to Vanya’s crib and smiled tenderly down at him. Vanya was in awe. “Are you my guardian angel?” he whispered.

I read Vanya’s story in The Boy from Baby House 10, by Alan Philips and John Lahutsky. It vividly demonstrated God’s love for the millions of children around the world without a family. Nothing is too big for God; and no one, not even a crippled orphan child, is too small for Him to love.

Are you willing to help? Email me (margieseely@yahoo.com) for a list of possibilities to prayerfully consider. You just may be the guardian angel in someone’s life.
Another student has enrolled in Orion Christian Academy’s online school! This young lady is in the fourth grade at another school, but needs to take only one course from us Orion Christian Academy—Georgia State History.

Her first assignment is to write a 250-word essay on the founding of Atlanta, Georgia’s capital. She will do the research at her local library or online, then go to Orion’s webpage, where a special composition program will keep track of the number of words she has used, highlight misspelled words and grammatical errors, indicate whether or not she is writing according to grade level, and give her a preliminary assessment as to the grade she will receive on her essay. When she is finished, she will submit her essay online, where I will receive it in my inbox and grade it. Her score will appear in her online grade book, which she and her parents can view at any time.

Does your child need to enroll in only one course? Orion Christian Academy offers single-course enrollment in a wide variety of core and elective courses from Grade 3 all the way up through High School. Single-course enrollment is only $25 per month and can be completed at a child’s own pace and on his or her own time. Most grading is done immediately upon lesson completion, so students always know how they are doing.

Orion Christian Academy is a great way to learn, combining academic excellence, fun learning activities, and strong Christian values. If you would like to receive a handbook and/or price list for the many educational options available for your child, please contact me at: margieseely@yahoo.com.

2013 Calendar

- **November 29-30:** Southeastern Field Conference in Tampa, FL
- **December 8:** Education Workshop in Cedartown, GA
- **December 13-15:** Southeastern Field Children's Conference near Houston, TX