I. Letter

II. Myanmar Flood Much Worse Than First Realized


Cyclone Komen combined with severe monsoon rains has caused massive flooding, flash floods and strong winds across 12 states and regions of Myanmar (Burma).

The flooding in Myanmar has caused much more damage and displacement of people than originally realized. Over 209,000 households, with an estimated population of 1,099,000 have been affected.

The flooding is widespread with 11 of the 14 states reporting the displacement of families. Hardest hit are the regions of Kalaymyo area in Sagaing, in North West Myanmar where there is also a significant Seventh-day Adventist population. Many villages had floodwaters rise to depths of between 5 and 9 meters. Deposits of up to 2 metres of mud and debris now cover people's fields, resulting in a tragic loss of both food in storage and this year's harvest.

Immediate needs that ADRA and other NGOs are working to provide include water purification tablets, emergency food, as well as essential non-food items such as plastic sheeting, cooking sets, blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, sanitary items and shelter kits. Longer term relief efforts will need to include the rehabilitation of water sources, rebuilding of homes and schools, and rapid agricultural recovery.

ADRA was the first NGO to respond in the rural villages around Kalaymyo - largely thanks to the quick work of local Adventist church members and students of Adventist schools who are volunteering their help, working with the ADRA team to save lives and relieve suffering.

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Floods Continue in Myanmar

from ANN (Adventist News Network, August 19);

As monsoon rains continue in flood-devastated Myanmar, Adventists throughout the country are responding to the overwhelming needs. Current national news reports indicate the death toll has passed 100 and almost one million people have been affected, a number of whom were already displaced before the flooding.

The Myanmar Union Mission (MYUM) has organized the Central Emergency Disaster Response Committee (CEDRC) to implement Adventist relief work through various small groups. Last week they assisted 110 families in upper Myanmar and this week relief teams are in the areas surrounding Yangon and in the hard-hit Ayeyarwaddy region.

Adventist schools, churches and individual members are also contributing through fundraising, relief supply donations and on-site relief efforts.

Water continues to cover the village's roads, houses, schools and jetty.
Of the 109 families there, more than 500 people have been affected. The flood destroyed their homes as well as the rice paddy fields which serve as their source of livelihood. According to the villagers, the Adventist group was the first to arrive with assistance.

With the effects of the flood devastation challenging relief efforts, groups such as the Adventist church and ADRA have enormous opportunities to assist as many survivors as they can. While it may seem that the response is limited in comparison to the overwhelming needs, Adventist church leaders in Myanmar believe that Adventists can still make a powerful impact in survivors' lives through an organized, compassionate response.

Myanmar is one of the 14 countries within the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. With Buddhism as the main religion, it is home to 230 Adventist churches and over 28,000 Adventists.

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III. Outreach at Sri Lanka's Bethel Chapel

Shyamala Bastiam Pillai <shyamalab@sjmsassociates.com> Aug. 20:

Pastor George Wambeek writes;

Dear Members and Friends of Bethel Chapel,

CRISIS OF THE END TIMES SERIES BY PASTOR JOHN LOMOCANG

Over the past several months the churches in the Colombo district have been preparing for the above series and we are about a month away. The ground work and the preparation for the meetings are going on. We have been able to successfully complete the following with a reasonable good response.

Our on-going project of mailing literature and the Signs of the Times has had a lot of positive response. We started with sending out the series "An Hour With Your Bible" around 16,000 pieces of the series have been mailed to around 900 person in the Colombo district which had a response of around 50 persons writing in and asking for more literature. We have been able to continue to share the Magazine "Signs of the Times" every month through a generous donation from one of our former members for which we are very thankful. Last year the church shared the series "Hope for Cities" by Dr. Mark Finley after which some of those who could not attend requested for the DVD's and we have been mailing the DVD's together with the "Signs of Times" every month. During the past few months the churches have been engaged in the enrolment of the "Voice of Prophecy", Health Camp, Health Awareness Programmes, Acts of Service by the Youth Departments of the Church to name a few.

Today we are writing to all our members and friends to join us during the following two months on every 3rd Sabbath of the month to pray for the City Evangelistic series that will take place from October 2nd - 8th 2015.

On Saturday 22nd August and 18th September we will be having Prayer and Fasting in the church after services from 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm. It will be time of Praise, Prayer, reading of the word of God and passages from Spirit of Prophecy and a time of sharing of testimonies. Those of you who cannot be present or those of you who live abroad, may we invite you to pray with us that God will pour out His Spirit upon those who will receive our invitation and all those who we have made contact with to attend the series of meetings in October.

May we also request you to pray for the seven of our Earliteen Sabbath School children and other contacts who have been studying the word of God for over the past year with our Elder and Senior members and who made decisions to accept Jesus as their personal savior and friend.

Please also uphold the preparation work of the meeting and Pastor John Lomacang as he shares the word of God that the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of those who come for the meetings.

Thank you for your support at all times.

Yours sincerely

Pastor George Wambeek
Church Pastor, Bethel Chapel

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IV. SULADS Story -- Poiton Revelation Seminar Reaps A Great Harvest

By: Dr. Alejandro Panes President, SULADS

Earlier this year a revelation seminar was held at Poiton, Gupitan, Kapalong, Davao del Norte. Headed by Dr. Alejandro Panes (SULADS), two junior pastors from South Korea, Dr. Lee (MAMA), and supported by 14 young people from South Korea and the four volunteer missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Dondon Payaron, Timmy Dag-on and Emilyon Payaron.
The Seminar introduced them to the great work of restoration and salvation in Jesus and the programs which SULADS are doing in different fields.

A day before the baptism, there were only eight people who had already decided to be baptized. Then the last meeting came and the Korean pastor had emphasized the importance of baptism. Given after the pastor was the testimony of Timmy Dag-on regarding how the SULADS program had saved his life through the missionaries assigned in Santo Domingo mission school.

After his testimony, a miracle happened because the 8 became 88. Eighty-eight people decided to give their hearts to Jesus. Just before the baptism happened the number had increased again from 88 to 120 souls. It was nothing but God’s miraculous conversion to the hearts of those men.

The whole work in Poiton did not escape the disturbance of the forces of darkness. One whole night the Babaylan (quack doctor) was chanting and praying to his spirit gods and there was great disturbance on our night’s rest. Then when we claimed the promise that all the demons surrounding us were already defeated at the cross, peace slowly came back.

The more we move forward to work for God - our fight with the principalities and power of darkness will also intensify. It is a challenge to everyone of us to fight this good fight of faith because the harvest is indeed very great. Let us continue the great commission - go and teach all nations, because he has promised, "I am with you always even unto the end of the world."

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