

Mancilang Relief Operation Update

1st April 2014



Me, my five students and three from my former church

As a team, we are so thankful to the Lord giving us a great opportunity to serve the Yolanda victims in Bantayan Island, north of Cebu. Your prayers with and for us has been graciously answered by the Lord thus making our time and effort to yeild encouraging results both in the giving of the tangible (**shelters**) and intangible blessings (**salvation**) to a good number of residents in the suburb of **Mancilang**.

In other words, we made it a point not just to deliver them the material goods but also the gospel message of Jesus throughout our stay in the town of Madridejos. As a team we worked alongside with **Christ for Asia**, who adopted Mancilang as their focused area in Bantayan Island for the housing rehabilitation project.



A pose with the Christ for Asia staff, Troy extreme right and Maricor extreme left (couple)



Working with Christ for Asia was indeed God's direction to us as a result of our pleadings to lead us to a right partner who has a big heart for the gospel and passion for real transformation of people's lives in this whole undertaking of helping typhoon victims. The property owner of the place we rented was so generous to allow us to use his backyard to store the purchased building materials such as lumbers, roofing and walling materials and boxes nails.

The material side of the relief operation



My students amidst the coco lumbers in the stock yard

The housing project for the beneficiaries was carried out under specific guidelines and procedure to ensure non-duplication in the distribution of the building materials and to make sure they are visibly used as it's been reported that some beneficiaries sold the construction materials they received from other sources.



The first of the many beneficiaries to receive some of the construction materials



Beneficiaries either loading their construction materials or sitting and waiting for their turn to receive their materials

The big bulk of the distributed housing materials were released to beneficiaries who lacked some materials to complete their partially constructed houses. In our 5-day stay in Mancilang, we only finished four houses because of the limited number of hired carpenters and helpers.

All carpenters in the area are employed by several NGOs hence finding and hiring more of them to build more new houses for the typhoon victims in Mancilang is not possible. In fact I have to bring one carpenter with me all the way from Cebu city. This situation for instance significantly causes to slow down the housing rehabilitation process in places hit by the storm. Several households are still living in tents which is so hot inside especially this summer time. However, some households could not wait for a paid carpenter to do the work for them and therefore took the initiative to build their houses with the materials donated to them.



My carpenter on the right with his helper on the left and a widow house beneficiary



This is one of the houses built with 10x8 floor measurement.

The gospel side of the relief operation

We regarded the material side though necessary a mere front for the gospel to come to these people. We simply did not come to them for purely humanitarian reason. We reached them out most importantly to bring to them Jesus in the gospel. Hence we conducted five Bible studies in five different areas throughout our stay in Mancilang. Children's ministry was also undertaken by the ladies in our team, three of them were Germans.

We did evangelistic Bible study for the carpenters before they reported to their respective work sites.



House recipient gospel Bible study attended by the neighbours



Kitchen personnel's' gospel Bible study attended by other women in the neighbourhood

There was also for the kitchen personnel, who most of them are wives of the carpenters, which we did at 7 pm before they leave for home. House beneficiaries had their separate Bible studies from 5 to 6.30 pm which was followed with a feeding program. We prepared congee for them. Our gospel ministry was very intentional because we challenged those who professed faith in Jesus Christ and repented of their sins for water baptism. Six of them gave themselves to the believer's water

baptism. They were so glad that for the first time they heard God's way for their salvation in Jesus Christ alone.

There were several interesting and encouraging testimonies of the newly baptised individuals, and one of which was Cristita's. She's 58 years old and housekeeper of the place we stayed in, who joined in the nightly evangelistic gospel teaching for the kitchen personnel. When I challenged them to repent of their sins and signify it in water baptism based on Luke 3:1-20, she was one who raised her hand and to prove it, came to the beach



Another house recipient gospel Bible study attended by neighbours

for the baptism the following day. This woman had been evangelized by a christian friend during their high school days but rejected the gospel message that time. However, this time, the Lord graciously touched her heart and opened her eyes to see the glory of Jesus in the gospel and believe in Him and was baptised. The baptism event was followed by a lunch fellowship to celebrate God's mercy poured out on them. Your donation did not only brought them the material blessing; it also brought them through us salvation in Jesus.

The last baptism was done in a different sea shore. In this place, the one baptised was a carpenter named Jason. There were eight of them, including the helpers but it was only him whom God enabled to savingly respond to the gospel call to faith in Jesus and repentance of sin. According to him, his true understanding of the gospel message first came to him at our first Bible study session, Tuesday morning. Hence when called to repentance and baptism on the last day of our Bible study time he spontaneously committed himself.



Jason, the lone carpenter who by God's grace responded to the gospel message

At the moment the newly baptised believers are joining a certain Christian congregation outside Mancilang. However, we are seriously praying for God's direction to start a new congregation in the suburb of Mancilang. If this is God's will for us, then, my exiting student, Gamaliel is very much willing to continue God's work there.

As planned for our last night, we held an evangelistic open air campaign in the basketball court of Mancilang. It was the biggest crowd I have ever preached to so far in my entire life in the ministry. There were more than 500 people present including children. Preaching from the Rich man and

Open air gospel preaching in Mancilang basketball court



Lazarus passage, I could sense the deep seated spiritual ignorance and hugner in the lives of the people who listened attentively to the gospel of Jesus. What a joy we have in our hearts having ministered to the people in Mancilang even in a very short time. Let's continue to pray to the Lord of the harvest to bless His sowed word of hope in the hearts of the people there that in God's own time more souls will be ushered into the kingdom of light of His Son Jesus Christ.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR ALL TIME!!!