

The Burma / Myanmar Cyclone Tragedy

26th May, 2008

Full Gospel Assembly, Yangon (FGA) has been out in 16 districts distributing 15 tons of rice and thousands of liters of water to several thousand people. Tomorrow another fifteen tons will be distributed. The local area authorities have been very positive and happy for the distribution, but in each district there has been people from the military intelligence (MI) that has questioned the church, and taken down their names and addresses. People were crying and begging them for food and they gave out everything they had.

Bodies of humans and animals have been floating in ponds and brooks contaminating the water. People are drinking from these places and the whole situation could become even more catastrophic. Clean drinking water is imperative. The water supply is slowly coming back in the city but in the outskirts there is no such thing. People from these areas have even traveled in to the church in the city centre to get rice and water.

We have also found many sick people that are unable to get to a hospital and are just sitting by the wayside too weak to do anything. We have begun to drive them to the hospital or available clinics. Today it has been raining heavily and people are totally exposed to the elements huddling under umbrellas or squatting together under some temporary shelter.

Many have infections and are sick after the cyclone and they must be treated as soon as possible, and there is problem with leeches and mosquitos in the midst of the hunger and the rain. We will start to build small houses right away. We have already got promises of some funds designated for this purpose. We can start working on eleven houses.

We are such a small organisation but the youth, the adults as well as the elderly members in the church are all involved in work and it is now very well organised. Everyone is contributing. We need to get in touch with large donor organisations as well as with more individual donors to keep the reliefwork going. If you have any contacts, please let us know. In the midst of the sorrow and misery God is opening hearts and are giving favour to the church. People are so open to the love and care they receive. The staff has even prayed with local area authorities to salvation.

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From Pastor Mung in Yangon,

"On Saturday we sent out teams of FGA staff to begin distributing much needed aid to those who are living just a few miles from us but who have been so badly affected by the cyclone. They took 10 bags of rice packed into smaller bags with enough rice for 1 or 2 meals depending on the

family size. The people queued up and waited patiently for their bag of rice. Some had not eaten for four days and so were relieved and very grateful.

We also distributed one bottle of water (90 cups) to each family. This water is clean drinking water and it is vital that the people get more clean water before more get sick. At the moment the people are collecting water from the pond which is dirty and not fit for drinking. Yet, with no other options, they are using this to cook, wash and drink.

We thank God that we have been able to begin this program and pray that we will be able to continue to help these communities in such desperate need.

Pastor Mung

FOR CONTACT OR DONATIONS:

Gifts/cheques should be made to 'TOUCHING ASIA' and sent to:
BLK. 1 H # 03-76 GILLMAN HEIGHTS, SINGAPORE 107001
Telephone: 65-62725856

For direct bank transfers:

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Account Number: 152-102240-001
Bank code + branch 7232 - 152
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