

One World, One Faith, Many Nations

Bishop Jane Alexander

*Fourth Week of Lent
Tuesday March 29*

Scripture

Jeremiah 32:17

Ah Lord God! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm!

Reflection

Because of climate change, super typhoons are becoming increasingly common. In 2018 PWRDF responded to the earthquake in Indonesia, and Super Typhoon Mangkhut in the Philippines. In 2020 Super Typhoon Goni hit the Philippines. It seems that people do not have time to recover from one super climate event before the next one hits. We believe in the strong power of God to help and to heal. And God believes in us, that we have been designed to help and to heal because we are created in the image of God. Hundreds of years ago St. Teresa of Avila put it this way:

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

So even though the Philippines experiences an average of 20 typhoons every year and is vulnerable to frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, rising sea levels and storm surges, the hands and feet and prayers of the Christian family are there with PWRDF and their partners like Cordillera People's Alliance. Part of Creation Care is responding to needs, reinforcing capacity and addressing poverty

Prayer

*We pray for people of the East.
For people in South East Asia who live in poverty and have limited choices in their livelihood.
Many of them are migrant workers living and working in a foreign land.*

They are lonely, have limited access to resources and are separated from their families and loved ones. Lord, give them strength, courage, love, peace and perseverance to face everyday challenges. May they know Your presence and love. We pray that they can be reunited with their families and have a better life in the future.
PWRDF Prayer in the Four Directions, Anglican Alliance website

PWRDF supports typhoon relief in the Philippines

On November 1, 2020, Super Typhoon Goni (Rolly) slammed into the Philippines with catastrophic winds, torrential rainfall, severe flooding, mudslides and storm surges. It was the world's most powerful tropical cyclone this year so far. Typhoon Molave (Quinta) hit the same region a week prior and another violent Typhoon Vamco (Ulysses) hit the country on November 11. More than 1.4 million people in five regions across Luzon were affected. These disasters have occurred while the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a serious public health risk. It has already caused the Philippine economy to contract by 7.3%, further impoverishing the most vulnerable and poorest Filipino families.

The National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) issued an appeal for cash and in-kind donations and its volunteers immediately started responding to the needs on the ground.

PWRDF gave \$20,000 to an ACT Alliance appeal. NCCP and PWRDF are both members of the ACT Alliance and longstanding partners. Established in 1963, NCCP has a wide network of churches rooted in the local communities and well-trained staff. The NCCP Program Unit on Faith, Witness and Service (PUFWS) will manage the various phases of the project through its member churches, organized as an Ecumenical Disaster Response and Management Committees.

“Our goal is to promote unity among our members in responding to the impact of Typhoon Rolly, where we see how we can complement each other's responses, share resources with each other and coordinate to avoid duplication and reach more communities,” says Edward Santos, NCCP Humanitarian Program Manager. Hot meals were prepared by the Brotherhoods at UCCP Faith Bible Church for those who were evacuated.

The typhoon has put the affected region in a state of crisis. Many are without access to food, shelter materials, safe drinking water and hygiene materials, and income opportunities. The dire situation is further compounded for people with vulnerabilities: the elderly as they have to leave their homes and stay in the evacuation centers or temporary shelters, together with other displaced families, which makes them vulnerable to acquiring SARS, COVID-19 or other health problems.

NCCP aims to support 8,000 households who are among the severely affected. Priority will be given to hard-to-reach areas and unserved or underserved communities, where minimal government presence or public service exists. Particular attention will be given to people with special needs such as pregnant and lactating women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Read the whole story on our website at

<https://pwrdf.org/pwrdf-supports-typhoon-relief-in-the-philippines/>