

Further update on the typhoon that hit Tacloban and how it affected the translation progress.

A number of days after the typhoon swept through Tacloban and the central Visayas, we finally were able to contact Raquel's family on Caluya and Kalibo as well as Topher and a number of my newly made friends and fellow Bible translators while I was in Tacloban.

It seems that three of the small islands near Caluya were totally devastated, with only two buildings on one island and one building on another remaining. A number are still missing. Marjorie (Raquel's sister in Aklan) told us of how the typhoon devastated her area, including demolishing their mother-in-laws house only 100 meters from them. They were able to ride out the typhoon in their more substantial home, but had to hold on to pillars or whatever as the wind swept through their house. Although one of their neighbors died of a heart attack during the storm, at the same time a baby was born in the home of Marjorie. (One of her neighbors who was very much on the way to giving birth, but did not have a very substantial home, had taken refuge in the home of Marjorie.)

Topher (one of our spiritual sons from the soccer team of Nasuli) had quite an experience after he brought me to the airport. Fourteen hours after I flew out of Tacloban for Manila, the typhoon swept through Tacloban, and not long after, it took off the roof of the small house Topher and Melanie were renting. They immediately transferred to the attic of their neighbor's house leaving most of their possessions behind. There they saw their old home becoming covered with water. I asked Topher if that included the roof. He reminded me that the roof had already blown away. Apparently the water that swept over much of the city was over 15 feet high.

After the water receded they said they had to walk over 3 hours to get to Bethel International School where Melanie is a teacher and Topher is the soccer coach. (Melanie is 6 months pregnant.) They stayed there in one of the classrooms for about a week (living off of pretty much just rice and fish) before they were able to get a bus and boat to the island of Masbate where Melanie's family lives.

I also was able to get emails from three of the ones I had just trained and empowered to do translation work. Jenny is now in Iloilo and Butch fled to Manila to be followed by Johnny. Paul, an American who grew up in the Philippines as an MK and became a missionary himself, decided to stay in Tacloban to rebuild. I asked him how it was going. He said “surviving with the help of our Lord.” There is no electricity, no running water and just a lot of trials – like trying to cover their old house with a tarp and patch up the school buildings while it continues to rain. I thank the Lord for Paul’s spirit – he and Margie could have just retreated to the U.S. But they plan to rebuild.

Butch wrote: “I lost everything, the new building I built and my house were all devastated including all my personal things and the translation laptop I used...It was a miracle we survived but God is merciful. Water in my place reached 16 to 18 feet with waves more than that.” Butch mentioned that they were on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. But even there the water reached their waists and kept rising. He said, “My daughter told her mom to lead us into singing worship songs. Tears fell from my eyes. I thought it was our end. Suddenly as if on cue the wind wavered and the water rise stopped. God is Great!”

The Winaray translators are now dispersed throughout the Philippines, but they would like to continue with the translation, seeing the huge need of getting an understandable translation into their Winaray language which would service over 2 millions speakers.

If you are interested in helping out the Winaray translation, you can send a check made out to ‘Converge Worldwide’ and write ‘Waray Translation Project #510205’ on the note/comment part of the check.

Mail the check or checks to:  
Converge Worldwide  
2002 S. Arlington Heights Rd.  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Include a short note with the check saying that you want the funds to go to the translation of the Bible into Waray-waray, Project ID

510205.

You will receive a tax deductible receipt for your donation.

Or if you do not need to receive a tax deductible receipt for your donation, you could also send it to our (Kermit O. Titrud) \$ savings passbook acct in the Philippines:

Acct # 108-2-10800692-1\_Swift code: MBTCPHMM\_Metrobank, Calapan branch, Philippines

Monies to these accounts will go to replacing computers for the Waray translators that lost theirs in the Typhoon (and accompanied flooding) at Tacloban and/or for other needs related to the Waray translation of the Bible, for which I'm a co-director.

If you do send to any of the above, please email me informing me so I can keep tabs on it.

Thanks for your consideration, and feel free to email us if you have any questions.

Raquel and I are grateful for all the international help we see flowing into Tacloban and other parts of the Philippines that were hit by such a devastating typhoon. We pray that those of His children (like Dante and Jorge) who physically went or plan to go to help out will let their light in Him shine to the max and that people will recognize His love through these children of His.

Know too that not only do many in the central Philippines need physical help, but they are also starving for Spiritual food which is substantially met in His translated Word. Thanks again for your continual prayers and support as Raquel and I strive to meet this need as well.

With you in His service and for His Word,

Kermit and Raquel Titrud (presently at the OMF guest house in Calapan, Mindoro making progress on the revision of the Bible into Tagalog)

P.S. A friend of mine made a website for me. It has the previous latest updates. Feel free to visit it at: [www.kermittitrud.org](http://www.kermittitrud.org)