

## More than 100 killed in one city

A day after Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, more than 100 bodies are reported in the streets of the city of Tacloban. Survivors are waiting at the airport for supplies reports CNN's Paula Hancocks

The above was on CNN's front page. I knew that the typhoon was going to hit Tacloban pretty much dead center. But I had not heard any news yet concerning its state after the typhoon passed through it.

Just two days ago I was in Tacloban. I was there for around a week staying with a missionary couple who started up a Christian international school in Tacloban. They wanted me to help out with a translation team they were forming. My flight back to Manila was scheduled for Thursday evening. After a few days in Tacloban we hear of this typhoon forming and approaching which was predicted to hit Tacloban head on. Infact those who showed up to work with me on Thursday told me they heard on the news that all flights were canceled. Oh well! His will be done. But then I was told the flights were in fact leaving on schedule. And it looks like I was able to get out of Tacloban in the nick of time. I've texted and sent emails to our contacts in Tacloban, but no response yet. I'm assuming communication is down in that area. Here in Manila we had a fair amount of rain, but not too extreme, and today (Saturday) fairly windy, but not too strong.

I really had an enjoyable time in Tacloban, very busy, but great people to work with. Infact my buddy in SIL, Roger Stone, came down to help for a few days as well. I also got to play a game of soccer (11 on 11) – first time in years, and with Topher nonetheless. Topher was one of the young guys whom I discipled and was on my soccer team when we lived at Nasuli, Mindanao. At Nasuli people called me “Coach”, including those who were not on my team. It was weird hearing regularly people calling out “coach”, but not to me, but to Topher. He is one of the pastors of a large church in Tacloban and is also the coach of Bethel International School.

Tomorrow Raquel and I go back to Calapan, Mindoro. We plan to work with our Tagalog revision team there for the next few weeks.

Once again, thanks Lord for watching over me and taking care of me and allowing me to escape the recent big typhoon that went through the central part of the Philippines. Praying though that you will comfort the many people in that part of the Philippines that are suffering lost loved ones or homes. And thanks again for my brothers and sisters in you scattered throughout the world.

Your son Kermit with your daughter Raquel

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From BBC news:

The storm made landfall shortly before dawn on Friday, bringing gusts that reached 379km/h (235 mph), with waves as high as 15m (45ft), bringing up to 400mm (15.75 inches) of rain in places. [\[Can't imagine! 45 ft waves!!!??? 235 mph winds!!!\]](#)

From Manila Times:

Many of the worst-hit areas remained cut off from communications on Saturday, with power and telephone networks destroyed, [\[Now I know why my friends Paul and Topher have not responded to our calls and emails – praying they are ok\]](#) but initial accounts from some areas reached by the military and the media painted a deeply ominous picture.

In Tacloban, the city's airport manager reported more than 100 bodies were littered in and around the facility, with at least 100 more people injured.

“The terminal, the tower, including communication equipment, were destroyed,” [\[It looks like my plane left that airport less than 12 hrs before the typhoon hit the city and the airport of Tacloban\]](#) Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) deputy chief John Andrews told Agence France-Presse, as he recounted the airport manager's assessment.

Large areas of Tacloban were flattened, according to a news agency photographer who reached the coastal city aboard a military plane carrying relief supplies.

Storm surges more than three meters (10 feet) had pounded the area, the Philippine Red Cross said.

In scenes reminiscent of tsunami damage, some houses in Tacloban were completely destroyed [\[wondering how Topher's house fared and the state of Bethel International school where I stayed when I was in Tacloban\]](#) , with piles of splintered wood lying on concrete slabs, while others had just the stone frames remaining.

Almost all the trees and electric posts were torn down, while cars were overturned.

Cebu Pacific, Philippine Airlines and PAL Express said they would resume their flights once the provincial airports are fully cleared. Over 90 flights had been cancelled because of Yolanda. [\[Wondering how long I would have been stranded there if my plane had been canceled.\]](#)

[\[Again Lord, watch over our loved ones in that city.\]](#)