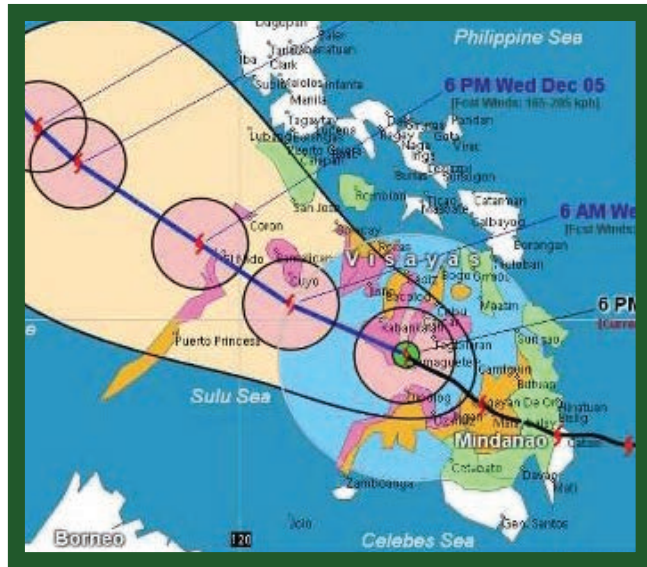


DECEMBER 2012

"Jesus rebuked the wind and the raging waves. The storm stopped and all was calm!" - Luke 8:24



TYPHOON PABLO...

Typhoons are just part of life in the Philippines. Every year at least a dozen or so storms find their way into our neck of the woods - but we are blessed here in Himamaylan because they rarely if ever hit us directly (*the last storm to hit was almost 20 years ago*). That was why we were so surprised when a rare late season super storm was due to slam right into our Island.

Super Typhoon Pablo came into Mindanao (*the Island to the south of us*) as a strong category 5 storm, more than 400 miles across, with winds up to 200mph,

dropping over 15 inches of rain. It was one of the strongest storms ever to hit the area. It left Mindanao devastated (*over 1000 people died with over 800 still missing*) heading straight for Negros. As the storm approached Negros Island it had lost some of its steam and was downgraded to category 3 with winds of 120mph. Most of the southern part of the Philippines was still at the maximum warning of 'Storm Signal 3'.

The day before the storm we spent most of my day talking to city and barangay officials who were preparing for the typhoon. We put the mayor and the head of the city disaster response team on the radio warning people to be prepared and evacuate low lying coastal areas. The morning of the storm's arrival we boarded up the windows and sandbagged the doors. We had over 30 people huddled in the house ready for the worst. The rains began about 12pm - and the wind started picking up about 3 in the afternoon. By 6pm we were experiencing winds over 50mph with gusts well over that.

Then just when the worst of the storm should have hit us - nothing. I mean absolutely nothing - no rain / no wind. It was like the storm vanished just as it was about to unleash its fury. Just as the storm approached us - it seemed to melt away to nothing. The skies even cleared up so there were not even any clouds. We woke up the next morning to a beautiful sunny sky! There is no other way to explain it than God! Thank you for all your prayers - God answered!



YOUTH OUTREACH...

About 30 of the youth got together a few weeks back and made the 4 hour hike up the mountain to the remote community of Cunalum to do an outreach to the kids. One of the elders of the church - Amado - was originally from the area so he went along with them. What he saw stirred his heart. There were a number of churches there but no pastors. The fee the 'pastors' were charging was more than the people could afford - and so the 'pastors' refused to come and feed/love the people. The Lord began to work on Amado's heart and he is praying about going back - once of month to begin with - to teach the people the Bible for FREE! He shared his heart with the whole church last Sunday and asked for prayer as he simply wants to teach the people in Cunalum about the Love of Jesus!

TEACH THE WORD...

We heard a funny story from a guy at one of the Mid-Week Bible Studies... He was talking to someone who does not attend church about all the hype over the world ending on December 21st (*funny that even here in the mountains people have heard about this*). The man who was not from the Bible study was saying he did not believe the world would end this year. What was REALLY funny is WHY he believed the world would not end. He had looked at a can of corned beef - and the expiration date was not until 2015. Therefore the world has at LEAST 3 more year before it comes to an end! Funny but sad that people who do not know the Bible trust in just about anything - even a can of corned beef - to give them hope for the future. **Romans 10:17** - "Faith comes by hearing the Word of God."



UPCOMING EVENTS...

Speaking of the end of the world - we were asked by the Local High School to teach the Christmas Message at this years Senior Christmas / Sleep over party on December 20th (*there will be over 400 youth attending*). They asked that we teach on Bible Prophecy and the return of Jesus Christ - that is my kind of Christmas message! The teachers want to get their students excited about the real reason for Christmas - the hope of spending eternity with Jesus in heaven! We will finish up the night by showing 'Left Behind' to the kids. It ought to be a night they will not soon forget!

We are getting ready to celebrate Christmas this coming Sunday. We will have a special service where the kids are going to put on a Christmas play for the church. They are beyond excited as they prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord! We will follow up the play with a Christmas evangelistic message. On the 31st we will have a New Year Eve prophecy update. It should be a exciting and challenging message in light of current events in Israel and the Middle East.

PRAYER REQUESTS...

- The Bible Studies - for the Word to change lives
- The Story of Jesus outreach into the schools
- Raising up pastors - looking forward to transitioning the church
- Bible Studies taught by men in the church
- The people in the Bukid (*mountain*) - to be open to Jesus!
- Strength for those families who are standing up for Jesus!
- The radio - direction with the 'franchise' - and the NTC
- Our marriage - grow closer to Jesus and to each other
- Flexibility and humility - we would be full of Jesus!



Cell: 011-63-921-497-3980 ~ US Number: 951-263-5347

Pastor David Hinchey Residence ~ San Antonio Himamaylan City 6108 ~ Negros Occidental, Philippines

Email: david@ccbf.net ~ Web: www.simbahansabukid.com ~ Skype or Facebook: davidhinchey

(contact us if you would like to be added to our email update list)