

Relief Aid in Marikina

Some of you know it already but this past month of October Jing and I were in Manila, because of the flooding due to typhoon Ondoy.

(the following are parts of an actual 'conversation' through the Internet on Sept. 26 in which a friend writes Jing that her mother is safe)

[14:11:37] m.r says: got your text... mama is now evacuated sa neighbor na mas mataas - so dry and safe na sya... her cellphone is still working... almost buong provident lubog and this area is high priority for rescue and evacuation... been in touch with mama since this morning. we are here in baguio.

[14:13:23] jingdevries says: did you say that 2nd flr is also flooded?

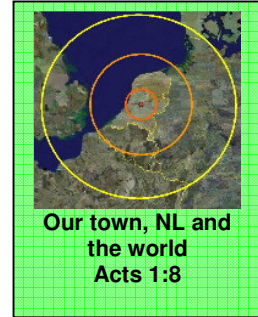
[14:13:57] m.r says: most MM is under water ... buhol buhol ang traffic... di ka makalayo to go from one place to another...

[14:14:45] m.r says: yung water umabot na sa 2nd floor... kaya lumipat na sila... baka tumaas pa kasi ulan pa rin

[14:14:59] jingdevries says: been trying to call mama's cellphone but can't get through

[14:16:58] m.r says: open mo rin FB kasi may mga nagpopost ng kanyakayang balita pati pics

[14:18:35] jingdevries says: yes in fact your post was the first news we got after Luis called since he has no news except that Pasion's house 1st floor is under water already. he had no news about mama



When we found out there was a flood the only way we got news about it was through the Internet as all telephone connections did not work. And after a day trying to stay up-to-date with what the situation was we spend one day at the office getting permission to go and transferring responsibilities. Then a day of packing and off we went to help Jing's mother in whatever way we could.



When we arrived the circumstances were a lot worse than we had in mind, based on our own experience of a flooding 20 plus years ago. This time the water had come a lot higher, twice as high actually, than it reached then. Everything was covered in slimy sticky mud. Furniture, books, clothes, everything was piled up in heaps. The refrigerator was stuck, hanging



horizontally about 5 feet of the ground. It meant three weeks of hard working; just cleaning the house of mud took days, working with 6 people... Tearing down the destroyed wood and cementing the walls were accomplished in the next 2 weeks while the cleaning crew just kept working. A lot of the details you can read at our weblog: <http://freddv.wordpress.com/> . It was sad to realize that we had to throw so many things. And come to think of it, many other items – especially smaller ones – we never even found again. They were just lost in all the water and mud.

Besides fixing the 'old' house of Jing's mother, we also needed to find a new place for her to stay in. The whole experience of this life threatening flood and the rescue by her neighbors that managed to get her and Jing's handicapped brother out only at the last moment was very traumatic for her. So it was not a reasonable option anymore for her to go back and live any longer in that house. By God's grace we heard of an apartment in another area – only about 2 kilometers away but on much higher ground. And after contacting the owner we were able to move in immediately!



Praise God for this blessing!

So, besides working on the 'old house' we also spend time doing some minor jobs on this new apartment including buying new appliances and curtains etc.

So after a while there was again the option of having friends come over and visit.

All of that is now already several weeks behind us. We're back in Holland, back to our ministry of communication, prayer and training new staff. But still the situation in Manila is still running through our minds. Especially since not all things that need to be arranged have been closed off.

For one, even though the 'old house' as been fixed up, much still has to be done to make it livable. But while we are doing that we also hope to find somebody willing to rent it. Extra income from that would help us to pay the rent of the 'new' apartment that Jing's mother is living in now. Her small pension is not enough to cover their expenses, so Jing's brother and we help out in this area as well.



In the meantime, ministry activities in Agapè (CCC) and in our church are keeping us busy. We've transferred leadership of 'our' small group to a younger couple but Fred is still sometimes leading the bible study times. And as part of the teaching team of the church he is also involved in deciding what materials the small groups will use... Another teaching opportunity for both of us are the evenings of the young adults. Our three oldest children are strongly involved in it and recently they asked us if we can teach them about finances and biblical giving. Of course we said yes...

Speaking of our children, maybe an update is valuable in that area.

Joël is now on the last stretch of writing his master thesis about a topic concerning the European Union. Anna has finished her bachelor level in Social Geography, combined with an honors program that she passed with flying colors. She is now taking a break, working for a while to take her mind off the studies before doing her masters next year. Mayen is hoping to graduate also this year. She is working hard, studying International Communication and Media and just finished an Internship working with the media dept. of Agape UK. And last but not least (especially not lengthwise)... Josef is now doing his fourth year of six in high school. The first three were a special double language route during which classes are taught mostly in English.

We are thankful to God that we can share our lives with you, our friends...

Thanks for your prayers.

Fred and Jing

F.H. de Vries, Dommel 61, 3961 HS , Wijk bij Duurstede. Tel. 0343-577223

(E-mail fdevries@agape.nl of jingdevries@agape.nl). Weblog <http://freddy.wordpress.com/>

Donations can be given through the ABN/AMRO bank acct.no. 48.36.38.846 of Agapè in Doorn in the Netherlands, mentioning it is for Fred and Jing de Vries.

We also have staff accounts in the Philippine and US offices of Campus Crusade for Christ.

US staff account # 2740939 Fred and Jing de Vries; Or go to:

<https://give.ccci.org/give?Action=ViewDetail&Desig=2740939&pp=Search+Results&Desig=2740939>

PCCC staff account: Rosario (Jing) de Vries