

December 19, 2011

Dear Friends of Christians' Haven,

I am writing with an emergency prayer request.

During the night of December 16th a horrific storm hit our island in the Philippines. Typhoon Sendong hit the island of Mindanao with no mercy. We have heard reports that up to 25 inches of rain fell but that is not confirmed. We do know that winds were steady at over 60 mph. We also know that terrible flash floods ensued and death, destruction and damage were extreme. The good news is that we do not believe that any of our Christians' Haven family was lost. Our kids were safe although very frightened. Our buildings and property did receive some damage but we do not know how much at this time.

Our campus is now a place for displaced refugees from our area seeking to find food and care. We are doing our best to make Jesus famous through this disaster.

The Filipino government is reporting that 143,000 people were directly impacted by this storm. The city of Cagayan De Oro and Illigan are coastal and were caught between the flash flooding from mountain rivers and the storm surge from the ocean. At this time more than 1000 are confirmed dead and many, many more are missing. There could be significantly more dead and just not reported as entire villages and neighborhoods disappeared in the flood waters.

As Americans we are used to rapid response from our government. That is sadly not the case in the Philippines. It is the role of neighbors to help neighbors. Christians' Haven desperately needs your help as we ask "who is our neighbor?"

Our campus and children were saved by the grace of God and the great wall that surrounds our campus. That very wall that provided safety has received damage from the floods. We must rebuild it rapidly. We also have great opportunity to feed and care for our neighbors. I am attempting to get there personally very soon. When I arrive I will have complete data to determine the cost of repairs and aid to those we have opportunity to serve. My very preliminary estimate is that \$10,000 will just get us started on the repairs and aid needed.

I am asking you for a special gift to Christians' Haven for "**Typhoon Relief.**" Contributions may be made:

- by clicking "Donate Now" on our website homepage at christianshaven.com
- at any US Bank to "Christians' Haven Typhoon Relief Fund"
- by mailing to Christians' Haven, P.O. Box 369, Webb City, MO 64870

Regardless of your ability to financially support this cause, I urge you to pray for us often as we struggle through this very chaotic and painful time.

Your fellow servant,

Lynn R. Ragsdale, President