

Cornerstone

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FOUNDATION FOR GOD'S GLORY

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FGG Disaster Relief: Reaching the Unreached

Typhoon Ketsana and FGG's humanitarian response

"The worst disaster"

"280 people dead"

"Billions to repair damages"

"Eighty-percent of Metro Manila affected."

These were the headlines that filled newspapers, cable channels and online news sites after Typhoon Ketsana struck Metro Manila and nearby provinces last September 26, 2009.

The six hour downpour from 8 AM to 2 PM turned out to be an urban catastrophe. No one expected it. Months before, many parts of the country were experiencing heavy rainfall. They thought that the present storm would just be another one like they've had in previous weeks. Everyone expected that it would be a normal, rainy day; only to realize that this typhoon was like no other. It was like nothing many Filipinos

have seen in their time.

According to the Hurricanes/Tropical Cyclones online pages of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), "a record 13.43 inches of rain fell in Manila in the six hours between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. local time, which is equivalent to about a month's worth of rain for the area." The amount of rainfall that came that day is not comparable to any recorded downpour for the past four decades. The local weather agency has declared that it was Manila's worst typhoon in recent history. The colossal impact of the typhoon on the landscape of the capital and its surrounding provinces makes Typhoon Ketsana the Philippine's version of Hurricane Katrina.

The Damage of Ketsana

Before the rage of the typhoon ended, sensing that the calamity and the toll of damages would be grave, the President of the Philippines declared the capital and other provinces in a

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FGG Executive Director Inducted into Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year® Hall of Fame



LEGENDARY ACHIEVEMENT: DR and NT receiving the Hall of Fame prize from Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® National Judges, from left: Jim Barnes, President and CEO, OAKLEAF Waste Management, Renee Amore, Founder and President, Amore Group, and Bruce E. Aust, Executive Vice President, The NASDAQ QMX Group, Inc.

Dante Raul "DR" Teodoro becomes a member of an Elite Circle of Corporate America

Being inducted into a hall of fame once is enough to prove a person's ability to do great things. Now, imagine the implication if the same person is inducted twice! The significance is too great to fathom. To snag two grand recognitions is an astounding feat attained by very few, but this is what FGG's Executive Director and JUNO Healthcare President, Dante Raul "DR" Teodoro achieved last week during the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The

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Editor's Letter

The Greatest Gift of All

It's that time of the year again, Christmas. The older I get, the faster time seems to fly, and Christmas always seems to sneak up on me. Another year done, a new year about to come.

Last year, we spent Christmas in the Philippines, the first time for me since I left the Philippines 20 years ago. During that time I was able to go with FGG and JUNO Manila Call Center staff to Candelaria, a province far from Manila to distribute gifts to children who live in poverty. It goes without saying that the children were beyond excited and happy to receive those gifts, and it gave me a warm feeling inside that I was able to take part in the gift-giving and contribute to the children's happiness. As I reflect back on that time, I'm reminded of the fact that despite all the holiday hoopla and Christmas madness, the greatest gift of Christmas didn't come wrapped in a pretty package with a big red bow. It came in a dirty manger, with stinky cow and horse dung smells, and the bitter winter cold air. The greatest gift was delivered in the most unassuming of backdrops, in the humblest of ways. God wrapped up all the love He could muster, and left it not under a shining Christmas tree, but in a barn on some hay.

In these modern times when kids are busy with their heads not in books but in their ipods, Nintendo DS, and what have you, or else busy not playing outside, but playing with their Guitar Heros and Wiis, it's becoming harder and harder to appreciate the simple things in life. As a woman entering my late 20s, I'm personally grateful for the fact that I didn't grow up in this technologically advanced generation. I was perfectly content curled up in my bed with a book reading for hours on end. Now more than ever, I'm grateful for the simple joys in life - for the warm sunshine, and the first snowfall, for family togetherness and the perfect cup of coffee. It's a reminder to me that Christmas is not just about the material gifts we give and receive. The greatest gift we can ever receive didn't come with a remote control or instructions.

God sent Jesus so that we can truly know what Love is. And that love is something we receive not just on Christmas day, but every single day and every single moment of our lives, as long as we live for Him.

That, to me, is the greatest gift of all.

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The Bible, Disaster Relief and FGG

By Valjun Apuzen

God created the world perfect. God, man and creation had perfect harmony. But man's sin and rebellion against God resulted in a separation between God and man, between man with fellow man, and between man and nature. Aside from this overview, the Bible does not give a clear specific reason for disasters.

The Bible records many stories of natural and man-made disasters. There was the great flood during Noah's time. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob experienced several famines in the land of Palestine. The nation of Israel was ravaged by war and the people were exiled into Assyria and Babylon. There was the famine in Jerusalem mentioned in the Book of Acts.

At times, God prepares people for such eventuality. God communicates through dreams and visions and also sends prophets

to warn the people. When people heed God's warning, as did Noah and his family, they are spared from the catastrophic effects of disasters. God revealed to Joseph that there will be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Based on this revelation, Joseph made the proper preparations to lessen the disastrous impact of this calamity.

Nehemiah, an Old Testament counterpart of the "OFW" (Overseas Filipino Worker), returned to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls. When famine struck Jerusalem in the first century, the churches in Antioch sent food and funds to their brothers and sisters in Judea to help alleviate their suffering.

These Biblical accounts show us that even in the midst of disaster God demonstrates His mercy, drawing people closer to Himself.



Through the personal efforts of its Executive Director and the generosity of its donors, FGG responded to the plight of those affected by Typhoon Ketsana in the Philippines. FGG brought hope to the people of Mitra and Arenda, two of the most affected but least assisted communities outside of Metro Manila. And yet, FGG's recent relief distribution efforts were not covered by national print, radio or TV media. But FGG is serving a greater Master whom, you can be sure took notice. Which is why FGG will continue to fulfill its Scholarship, Hunger Alleviation, and Relief Program (SHARP).

FGG will continue to distribute bags of relief having assisted 380 families who were struck by the mudslide in Leyte, the typhoon victims in Mindoro and Rizal. FGG will continue its scholarship program having graduated 69 scholars from Metro Manila, Northern Luzon and the Visayas. FGG will continue to feed needy children having fed 80 children in feeding centers in Payatas, Montalban, Tondo, Bulacan and Caloocan. FGG will continue to serve the sick, having served 243 persons in three medical missions.

Currently, FGG is supporting 100 scholars enrolled in 6 church planting and evangelism courses that are conducted in Metro Manila and Northern Luzon, Philippines. FGG is also feeding 120 children every week in feeding centers in Caloocan and Novaliches.

A scripture passage that inspires us to continue our program is Isaiah 58:10, "If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." Our message of hope is simply this: God is present in the midst of poverty, sickness and lack. He is near even when disaster strikes. He is there to turn sorrow into joy and make things beautiful in His time.



FGG Disaster Relief: Reaching the Unreached

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state of calamity. As waters partially receded, relief agencies and non-profit organizations sought emergency assistance and began what could have been the largest disaster relief operations in the heart of the capital.

Towns, cities, villages regardless of class or economic orientation of the residents, were destroyed. At the height of the rain, cars were floating and many were submerged. Most had houses with the whole first floors flooded. Thousands had to be evacuated, endangered of being drowned by the flood rushing to their doors. Trees, signposts and even stoplights, were bent and destroyed by the powerful winds and increasing amount of water filled the streets, roads and every inch of open space. It was an unforgettable six hours of rain. For thousands, it was an experience they will never forget.

As the sun shone again and the rain had stopped, the flood slowly decreasing in volume, the damage became obvious. The world saw what happened and was shocked by the cataclysmic event that had just transpired. As news helicopters hovered over Manila, one could see water in the streets. The city looked brown because of the mud and dirt that had materialized due to the flooding. You would think that all of Metro Manila was an island city where people use boats and amphibian vehicles to travel. No one, it seems, was spared by this tragedy. Millions were affected, business activities halted and schools closed. To rebuild what has been washed away and destroyed is overwhelming.

Seeing the damage, many responded with superb generosity. Even international celebrities like Josh Groban, Alyssa Milano and Ashton Kutcher petitioned their fans to send aid to the Philippines. Filipino political, civic and social leaders together with many global relief organizations declared that international aid was extremely necessary to bring back normalcy in the land and restore livelihoods. The United Nations and world leaders lent their ears and promised donations and technical assistance. US Military men who were in the

Philippines for training went to Manila to assist large-scale relief efforts.

FGG Outreach Efforts

Although millions of dollars worth of donations was being infused into Manila and hundreds of thousands of volunteers were at hand to assist the efforts, no single organization could carry the burden of rebuilding and reconstruction. Every contribution is deemed invaluable.

In line with its objectives and without hesitation, the Foundations for God's Glory (FGG) responded to the need and began seeking support from friends and stakeholders of JUNO Healthcare through Ketsana Campaign Relief Philippines. Funds raised from the effort were funneled to organizations who participated in broad-reaching disaster relief programs. FGG shouldered all operational expenses involved in the campaign; every penny raised was used directly to fulfill the needs of those affected.

Apart from fundraising efforts, there was an on-site visit to unreached parts of the affected areas. Media coverage during the recovery had been focused on Manila, the capital, ignoring the outskirts of the capital, which had been severely affected by the outpouring.

The JUNO Call Center Manila Staff, a sister organization of FGG, together with FGG Executive Director Dante Raul "DR" Teodoro, traveled to Rizal province to distribute goods for the victims. They went to the unreached locations where both media men and even global agencies had not been to. Accompanied by the Philippine marines, who provided boats for water transportation and escorted them during their outreach, they went to the innermost parts of the towns of Arenda and Mitra.

One of the participants in the humanitarian operation said that she saw families living in the second floor or on top of the roofs of the houses they live in. Residents did not have electricity and were having difficulty accessing clean water. The living conditions were ghastly at best.

With the help of local government officials, the outreach team was able to distribute bags of relief goods to 100 families. It was a very important contribution as the residents of Mitra and Arenda continued to wait for more help to

come their way.

A Long Recovery Ahead

It has been four months since Ketsana struck, but there's still a lot to do in terms of rebuilding lives and properties. A long recovery is ahead for those who have lost their loved ones, their livelihood and their homes. To rebuild what was lost will not only take months but years.

As if Ketsana was not enough, last October, Typhoon Parma hit several parts of Northern Philippines. It came back to the country three times, destroying houses, farmlands and killing hundreds. A new cry for help has been issued and the nation is at a standstill as to how it can rehabilitate the areas affected. The Philippines is now seeking \$1 billion from international donors for the reconstruction of devastated cities and towns all over the nation.

The challenge is beyond any single organization or government's capacity. It will demand a collective effort from every person. A massive overhaul in the physical landscape is a mandate as many streets have been damaged, walkways destroyed, and houses brought to its knees, torn down and swept away by the torrents. Many lessons have been learned from this experience and hundreds of lives will be remembered, and though the damaged properties, cities and towns may not be restored or recuperated as it once were, one thing remains: Hope. For with hope, anything is possible and the future will once again look bright and pleasing.

These times will challenge the Filipinos' fighting spirit, and complete recovery from this tragedy requires long-term and continuous assistance. FGG did its part and will continue to do so, and we need to do what we can to help and make a difference.



A Sense of Fulfillment

By Kristine Genil

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." I have always believed and tried to live this saying as often as I can in my own small ways - may it be by providing support to my family, offering a friend a shoulder to cry on or giving treats to children who knock on the door of our home in the Philippines during Christmas time. It feels good and right every time I do these deeds.

Last October 10, 2009, I had the opportunity to give to my fellowmen who are in dire need of help. I had the privilege of joining the members of the **Foundation for God's Glory (FGG)** in one of their outreach programs. However, it saddens me that the condition during which this activity was performed was brought about by Typhoon Ketsana (with Philippine local name "Ondoy"), which hit the Philippines last September 26, 2009. Although the said typhoon was not considered a "Super Typhoon" in terms of speed, the amount of rainfall it brought had devastating effects on Metro

Manila and a lot of other provinces. Hundreds are dead or missing and millions have lost their homes. Some families either relocated to evacuation centers or some have chosen to stay at home despite the fact that their areas are still flooded.

In line with the thrust of FGG, **Scholarship, Hunger Alleviation and Relief Programs (SHARP)**, I went with the FGG members, JUNO Call Center - Manila Staff and our President, DR Teodoro, to the Rizal province to distribute goods to the victims of the typhoon. Rizal was one of the most damaged areas in the Philippines. In fact, the water in the district that we visited was still chest deep and the level is not expected to reduce until after three months. In order to give the supplies and reach the victims in the district of Lupang Mitra in Taytay, Rizal, we had to ride a boat. Once there, we saw that families were either staying in the second level of their houses or on top of their roofs. They do not have light or electricity. They

have difficult access to clean water. Their living conditions were really tough and hard.

Guided by local government officials, we went from one home to the next, handing out goods to a total of 100 families. Each bag given was returned by a warm smile and a sincere "Thank you". It felt very fulfilling, knowing that even in a small way, you made someone happy and feel that they are not alone and forgotten. It felt rewarding, knowing that you made a difference in someone else's life.

This experience reminded me that we should be continually grateful for the blessings that we have. Seeing other people living in such circumstances made me appreciate the simple pleasures I have like not having to worry about the next meal and having a home. Lastly, this experience reminded me to be thankful every minute, every hour, everyday and that to give has a different but great sense of fulfillment, always.



A Reflection: When is Doing Good, Not Good Enough?

By James Cai

Jim Collins, in his seminal classic, *Good to Great*, famously declared the phrase, "Good is the enemy of great." In a world of innovation, global competition and fast-paced development, now being good just doesn't seem good enough. Simply striving to accomplish something will not guarantee success or superb achievement. As the world continues to flourish with new ideas and more sophisticated technologies are continuously being developed, the ultimate measuring stick for success is being great at one's work or personal life, not just good enough. This leads to the question- for us who follow Christ, when is doing good, not good enough?

IN, BUT NOT OF

We Christians, by surrendering our lives to Christ and deciding to abide faithfully to the precepts of the Almighty, have received a different identity. In *John 17:13-15 (NIV)*, Jesus says "I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world." Furthermore, in *Romans 12:2 (NIV)* it declares that we must "not conform any longer to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will." This shows that though we may live in the world, we do not belong to it. We are not bound to live by

the same yardstick of success that the world imposes. The moment we allowed Christ into our hearts, we are mandated to abide by a different set of rules, measures and precepts. The Bible confirms our new self in *2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)*, declaring "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Our new self demands that we live by greater standards of excellence. Our work must be nothing but the greatest output we can produce. *Colossians 3:23 (NIV)* instructs us that "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Our perspective when it comes to doing this, whether it's related to work or our personal lives, must be eternal. Our focus needs to be on the heavenly inheritance we will receive, which in a valuable way depends on how we live our life here on earth. This is one of the standards we have to live by as new creations in Christ.

A HIGHER CALLING

We don't need to be in full-time ministry to receive a "higher calling." When we offered our lives to God, all our activities - day job, household chores and church involvement, must be devoted to God. All our endeavors, no matter how menial or extravagant, become acts of worship. Living a life with a higher calling means offering our work to the greater

cause of advancing His Kingdom and honoring His name; we don't just do what we have to do, but we do it to please an audience of One.

The reason we aspire for greatness in all our work is because our Master deserves nothing but the best. Good is not good enough if it's not great. Greatness is composed of exerting the greatest effort, making the greatest impact, and producing the greatest result. It's an ideal that must be integrated in every aspect of our life. If the world's standards demand a 10, our goal is to at least give an 11. Our desire to honor God will lead us to a plane when doing good is not good enough, especially when we know we can do better.

WITH ALL OUR HEART

Serving the greatest Master requires the sharpest of skills. We must sharpen our skills so that we can create things worthy of God's standards of excellence. We live in the dispensation of grace, where it's not law and punishment that inspires us to move forward, but rather, love and mercy. His grace has overcome a lot of things for us and His power has overcome the world (*John 16:33, NIV*). Therefore, we can petition His help to guide us in developing our skills. As we have been empowered to take dominion over His creation, we have been equipped with the greatest resource: the Holy Spirit. It is He who can guide us and lead us to the right people, places and opportunities. What is required of us is to love God with all our soul, mind and strength - to give our all to His service and ministry.

In *2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)*, it says "the Lord is not slow in keeping His promises, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone come to repentance." Doing good is not good enough because at the end of the day, our life's purpose is not about us at all. We have to be great at work and in our personal life so that we can be a testimony to those who have not come to the saving knowledge of the truth. We will serve as a testament of God's ability to do great things; a confirmation of His character as a great God.



FGG Executive Director Inducted into Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year® Hall of Fame

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Year® Awards.

Dubbed as the Oscars of business recognitions, the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award is the most prestigious honor a businessperson can receive. Entrepreneurs like Michael Dell and Howard Schultz (founder of Starbucks) were bestowed the accolade in years past. These movers and shakers of business received the honor for their breakthrough efforts and ability to thrive in any market environment. The awards are for those who have not only seen great potential and opportunity, but have also realized and maximized the said elements and produced an enterprise of great value. The honorees are officially in a group of champions, which is strictly, for the best of the best.

NATIONAL NOMINEES

As recipients of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Award® for Staffing Services in the Metro New York region, DR together with JUNO Healthcare CEO, Nonette Teodoro, were made nominees for the overall national award. The Executives' refreshing approach to healthcare staffing and persistent efforts to provide a better way for healthcare professionals to get a job in the US enabled them to bring the enterprise they founded to record-breaking heights. As founders of one of the most successful healthcare staffing agencies today, the well-deserved regional prize they accepted led to an invitation to the most elite business gathering in America.

Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of The Year® Hall of Fame

Having become regional winners, DR and NT were inducted into the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Hall of Fame, described as "an elite corps of men and women who have been recognized for their exceptional entrepreneurial achievements." The title is given to "outstanding entrepreneurs for their vision, innovation, courage, and leadership in building and growing successful businesses—businesses that influence the way we live, the products and services we



DR and NT winning the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award in Staffing Services (Metro New York) and Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business for 2009

depend on, and the economic vibrancy of our local communities and global markets." This will be the second hall of fame induction for Dante Raul Teodoro, who, in 2007, became part of the Chicago Filipino-American Hall of Fame for his humanitarian efforts.

The Ernst & Young Hall of Fame is reserved for the crème de la crème of business achievers. Some recognizable names in the roster are: Starbucks CEO, Howard Schultz, Google Founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, Yahoo! Founders, David Filo and Jerry Yang, eBay Founder, Pierre Omidyar, and Amazon.com Founder, Jeff Bezos. Tom Adams of the language-learning software company, Rosetta Stone, was the Overall Winner of the Entrepreneur Of The Year Award for 2009. Many of the awardees are also respected philanthropists advocating various causes.

CHALLENGED TO DO GREATER THINGS

During a meeting with staff members of JUNO Healthcare in New York, DR said that he and NT are challenged by what they witnessed in

the ceremonies. Hobnobbing with some of the biggest names in business, they feel that now is the time for JUNO to be in a class of industrial giants. Fired up to take the company to greater heights, DR and NT are funneling the inspiration and energy derived from the conference into visionary moves for 2010.

Earlier this decade, JUNO's monumental success led to the creation of FGG, the social service sector committed to transforming communities one at a time. As JUNO reaches for greater things and aims for a new apex, FGG is positioned to benefit from the company's success. Since FGG is JUNO's way of giving back, a bigger JUNO means bigger capacity for FGG to assist communities that desperately need assistance. Whether in the area of scholarship support, hunger alleviation or disaster relief programs, the Foundation for God's Glory will be even more ready to serve.

A Chance for a Better Life

*Your prayers can work miracles,
but so can your support.*

*With your help, this child
can have a chance at a
better life. The glimmer of hope
in her eyes can turn into a
tangible reality.*

Will it be you?

**Give hope to our Feed-A-Child recipients today.
Support a child and build their dreams.**



EDUCATION

FOOD

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