

August 15, 2008

Dear Praying Friends,

We are busy preparing for our upcoming annual Police Appreciation Night. I'll be sure to send pictures. Over 80 came last year. Please pray that policemen will be saved at this service.

As most of you may have heard, a powerful typhoon swept through Panay Island and Iloilo City on June 21st. A flood followed that devastated entire towns and most of our city. The confirmed death toll went over 600, while dozens are still missing, presumably carried out to sea by rivers or still buried under mud and debris; 27 churches and 21 parsonages of our graduates were destroyed. Bro Clayton Reed, a friend of this ministry, immediately started a blog online. To view pictures of what happened and read stories of survivors that were interviewed, go to www.rickmartinministries.com/blog.

The floods were ten feet high in some residential neighborhoods, and entire families climbed onto their roofs for safety. In the photo on the right, Pastor Sandy Villasis stands in his doorway with his family and points where the water level was. Dozens of pastors like Bro. Sandy lost furniture, appliances, etc. when their parsonages were flooded. Water lines were destroyed, and we were without running water until two weeks ago (we used well water), and we had no electricity for seven days. Two months have passed, and there is still debris in some places that hasn't been cleaned up yet. The following page has some pictures of typhoon/flood damage.

On a personal note, please pray for my sister, Rachel Dequina. She will be having open-heart surgery this coming September 17 in Oklahoma.

In Christ,

Ricky, Brandie, & T.J. Martin



