

October 6, 2011

IMPLEMENTATION MESSAGE

By: Dr. Willie and Lottie Buhain

Eto na ang story sa Bulacan. This is really mas grave, at least with our experience. Was going to write this last night pero pagod na pagod kami, sleep na lang muna. By the way, we have lots of baha pictures etc...will be sending them separately.

We were picked up by Mang Angie, CFO van driver, sa InterCon at 6:30 a.m. yesterday. We then headed to CFO office to pick up the rest of the volunteers, 9 sila. Thanks to all the volunteers, who had another sleepless night, assembling and packing the 1,000 relief bags consisting of rice, canned food, noodles etc. but most of all we had a gallon of bottled water distributed to each beneficiary together with the bag.

Our first destination...Paombong, Bulacan

It took us about an hour to get there, daan muna sa Mayor's office, wala naman ang Mayor so si Vice Mayor ang present. Some of the areas were still under water so we have to divide into two groups for logistics and time efficiency. I went with one group and Willie sa other group, two different barangays.

We all rode the van and on the way, you can see the houses lubog sa water and upon reaching Paombong proper, baha pala where we are going to distribute. Of course, I wasn't prepared to go swimming nor was I wearing any boots. Luckily, we just transferred to a big truck so we could ride through the water (knee high) to reach the distribution center sa Barangay Pinalagdan. Luckily, all FtH bags, all 1,000 of them, were loaded in a BIG BIG truck so no problem going thru the water. Upon reaching the center, lo and behold, sa Calle pala kami mag distribute because everywhere else is still under water. So, directly from the truck to the line of 200 recipients, we distributed each bag together with the gallon bottled water.

We handed out the bags under a banana tree 'cuz it was sizzling hot that day. Talking to some of the beneficiaries, wala daw silang electricity, water nor enough food to eat. Pero, they had some kind of food center sa town, where food was given out. They just salok ang tubig sa baha to cook the rice and for whatever water need they may have. They were SO THRILLED to see the big gallon of water that we were handing out to them. The Vice Mayor and Barangay Captain were with us during the distribution and later on the Governor showed up.

Sa kabilang team naman ni Willie, they went to Barangay Santo Niño to distribute the 200 bags plus water. Also flooded sa surrounding areas so the distribution took place sa itaas ng tulay, which I presumed was a high altitude kaya hindi flooded.

After the two implementations, we headed kina Michelle (niece of Bobby) and Aris. We met Aris Mom too and of course, they were so very hospitable and kwentuhan how Bobby and Nina are such GREAT PEOPLE behind FtH. We distributed 100 FtH relief bags just outside their home, where there were so many devastated families with no homes nor food. They provided extra 70 bags to distribute as well. After the implementation, we were treated to a sumptuous lunch of *inihaw na isda, pancit palabok, munggo*, rice and dessert. Happy na naman ang mga hungry volunteers!

Off we go to Calumpit, Bulacan about 30 minutes drive. Same scenery as you travel the road...houses still underwater and people just wading to go places. Sakay na naman kami sa Big truck. We distributed another 400 bags with gallon bottled water sa Barangay Santo Niño, same name as previous barangay but this is in Calumpit, another hard hit town sa Bulacan. We were all together dito, so mabilis ang distribution. Finished na kami by 4:30 p.m.

Heading back to Manila, amoy araw kaming lahat, sama sama sa van, but we're all feeling great that we were able to help our *kababayans*. Siempre naman, hungry na naman ang mga Volunteers, so we treated them sa Pancake House before we all headed back home/hotel, tired but with a great sense of fulfillment.

Cheers!