



Typhoon Update 2  
December, 2013

## The Feeding of the 5,000 – Filipino Style

Our loving Lord and Savior Jesus Christ made feeding 5,000 people look like a normal easy everyday task. In faith Jesus took just 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish from a small boy and was able to feed an entire crowd of people.

In the southern part of the Philippines this past November, the task of preparing food and water for nearly 5,000 families and countless victims was not at all an easy undertaking. It still took a tremendous amount of faith and trust in the Lord to be able to complete this mission.

Within a few days of assessing the immediate damage and needs of the many victims of Typhoon Yolanda, Reverend Antonio Reyes and his team of volunteers got to work in preparing food pack relief kits to distribute to the desperate hungry victims in the Typhoon hit areas.



Step 1 – Purchasing and delivery of supplies to create 5,000 Disaster Relief Kits

## Typhoon Yolanda Disaster Relief Facts and Statistics

Nearly 5,000 Families on the island of Leyte in the towns of Mahayag and Tacloban were served and given help through the distribution of Relief Kit Food Packs which included:

- 45,000 kilos (99,000 lbs.) of rice
- 85,000 canned goods
- 57,000 packages of instant noodles
- 52,000 packages of 3 in 1 coffee
- Core group of people (26) preparing Relief Kits about 14 hours over 4 days. Other volunteers included teachers, high school and college students and local business people
- 9 Volunteers from the Tagakaulo Church, (an area in the mountains outside of Davao, which was established and begun by LCMS Missionaries in the 1980's) were part of the core group of volunteers



Rice is piled up in preparation to pack 20 lbs of dry rice per Relief Kit.

NO Age Limit: From 4 years old to folks in their late 70's – Volunteers of All ages came to serve those in need.



Nurse Christian Domingo and volunteer Ivy inventory medicine for typhoon victims.  
Rev. Antonio Reyes leads a time of prayer and devotion before the distribution in Mahayag Leyte.  
Pastor Reyes reviews the list of recipients with the barangay (neighborhood) leaders



Crowds of patient yet hungry typhoon victims wait in line to receive their Relief Kits.  
Rev. Daniel Pondeveda (far right) reads from the word prior to the distribution of relief goods.

During the distribution stage, the team loaded 5 large trucks and traveled nearly 36 hours to reach the typhoon disaster areas on the island of Leyte. The tired and hungry victims were so happy and hopeful at the thought and anticipation of receiving food and water.



Volunteers begin to unload the 5 trailers of relief kits in preparation for distribution  
Happy recipients of the relief kits head home to bring food and hope to their families

Although there were several challenges in the distribution phase of the typhoon relief, the LCP Disaster Response team relied on the assistance of the barangay (neighborhood) leadership as well as the Philippine army to assist with both security and organization of being able to distribute the Relief Kits in both a calm and peaceful as well as a fair manner. Some of the challenges included typhoon victims trying to steal the kits as they were so hungry and desperately wanting to provide for their families. Other victims, as a means for survival tried to find ways to obtain 2 kits by saying they were from different families. Thankfully through the help and assistance of the local church, the local government and the military, both of these challenges were overcome through good leadership and organization.

Through all of the joys and challenges of this relief project the LCP Disaster Response leader, Rev. Reyes noted, "Although the devastation of Typhoon Yolanda was GREAT – Our God is MUCH greater. To Him be the glory!

### Prayers and Praises:

- Many of you have asked about my (biological) brother Rob's Fiancé Karla and family who were missing in the town of Tacloban right after the Typhoon. They are now all safe and sound in a suburb of Manila!!!
- Praise the Lord for all the many volunteers and donors who have supported the relief work of bringing so much help to the victims of Typhoon Yolanda.
- Continued provision, guidance and direction for the LCP Disaster Response team as they wrap up the immediate relief project and begin planning the long term intermediate response project.

***Thank you SO MUCH for your consistent prayers and support during this difficult time of recovery here in the Philippines.***

**TO GIVE & SUPPORT** Victims of Typhoon Yolanda: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/disaster>

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