

Badjao Tribal Mission

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"a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" Rev 7:9

Dear Prayer friends

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is interesting how one event can change so many things and plans. We started the year with several plans goals for the ministry this year, like the rebuilding of the church and school, lay leaders seminars, restarting of the Badjao school. And then one big fire came and put everything on hold again for a while. Yes we experienced again another fire in the Badjao community. This time the fire started in one of the Badjao houses. The other fire in 2005 started outside the Badjao community. Many families lost their homes, almost 300 families were affected with more than 1300 people that were left homeless.



The leftover of the bridge after the fire.

Although the damage was much less than the 2005 fire, it was still very discouraging. We praise God that the Church was not burned and only one of our members lost their house in the fire. 90% Of the new bridge that we just built November last year was also destroyed by the fire. This whole situation has really discouraged many of our members.

One of the good results of the fire is that the government is now planning to fill the area with soil before they will start to rebuild the houses. They also plan to have small 3 meter(10ft) wide streets between the houses which will be a big improvement from the footbridges before. One of the biggest questions that still remain is how this will affect the houses and the church that was not affected by the fire. We are still waiting for the government to come up with more specific plans of what will happen. So please pray for this present situation. What make this even more difficult is that the government expects the non government agencies or mission organizations to carry the bulk of the expenses. They expect us to contribute tens of thousands of dollars to this project which we do not have and that places us in a difficult position.

The biggest challenge is we do not know when they will start with the filling of the land so we do not know when we can start with the building of the school and the church. As a result we do not know when we can start the school for the Badjao again. We also had to

postpone the leadership training for the Badjao lay leaders since the situation at the Badjao community is too difficult now.

Farm

We just finished a daily vacation Bible school during the Easter week-end for the children surrounding the farming area. We were wondering how many children would attend because of the many processions and other services that the Catholic Church have during this time.

To our surprise 40 children attended the meetings and most of them were from the higher grades. We are planning to restart the Bible studies and Sunday school programs that came to an halt after my wife's sickness.

Family

Last year has been a very difficult year for our family. It started with the illness and death of Chunghee's father. A few weeks later the doctors discovered cancer in Chunghee while we were attending a YWAM conference in Korea. This has lead to an operation for the removal of the cancer which was still in the early stages. During March this year Chunghee returned to Korea for her yearly checkup and we praise God that the doctors gave her a clean slate. There seems to be no reoccurrence of the cancer. Though she still has a low blood count, but she is doing much better.



Our children are doing very well. Our oldest son, Johan is staying with us in the Philippines while he is studying dentistry. Anna our second is studying hospital administration at Pensacola Christian College in Florida. She struggled to adjust the first year because it is a very strict school but now she is really

enjoying her school. Tina our youngest will start second year in high school when the new school year in the Philippines starts in June.

Prayer requests

1. Pray for the Badjao church and school in Cebu that needs to be rebuilt.
2. Pray for the church in Leyte that need to be rebuilt also. It was destroyed by the government to make way for development. We still need to find a new relocation spot to build the church.
3. Pray for the lay leader training program. Pray for God's wisdom so that we will do it right.
4. Pray for the Bible Studies and Sunday school that we need to restart on the farm. Pray for an open door in the hearts of the children and adults.
5. Pray for water on the farm. We are still looking for the right people to drill a new well for us as well as guidance as to the right place.

God Bless

Petrus & Chunghee Vercueil

