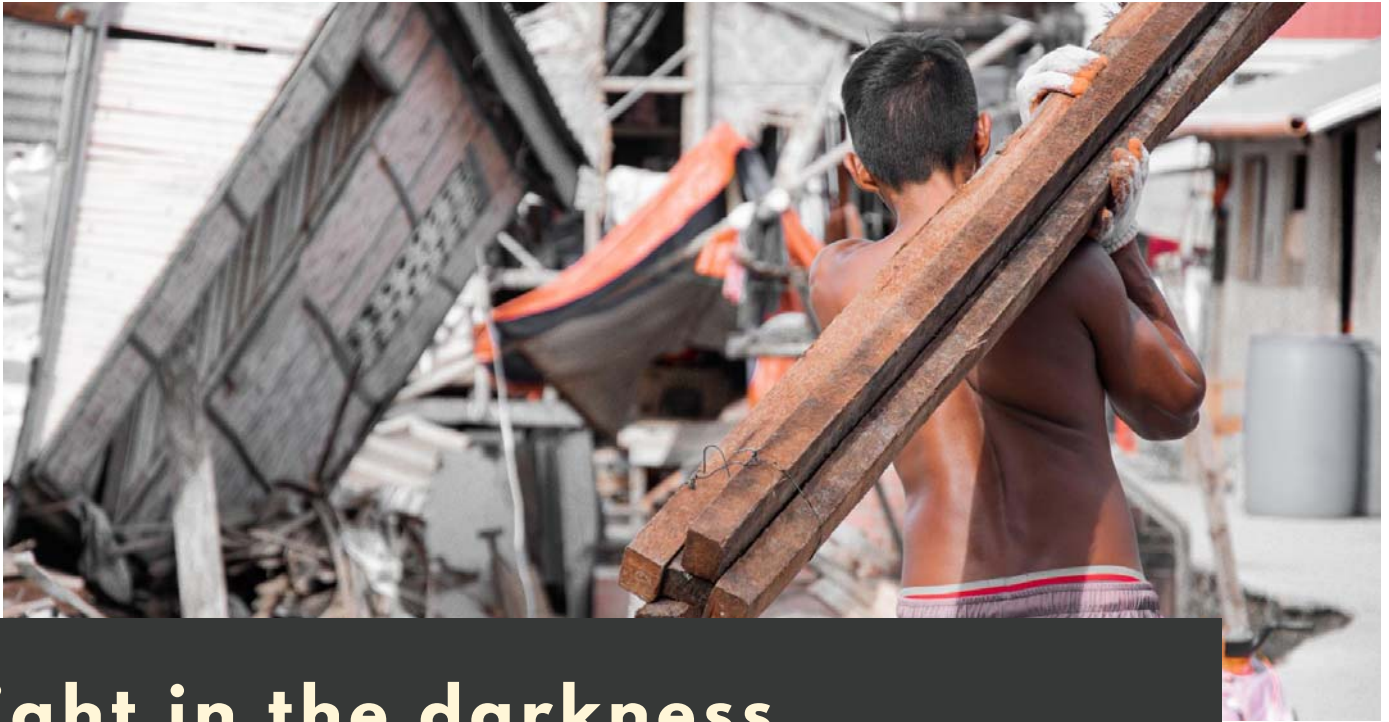


Christ for Asia International MISSIONSINFO



Light in the darkness...

Just a few weeks ago, no one would have thought that we would have war in the middle of Europe. And within a few days, the relationship with Russia has changed in such a way that we can expect stormy times in the coming years. We also experienced violent storms at Christ for Asia Intl. at the end of 2021. There was that super typhoon on December 16 that destroyed tens of thousands of homes, wiped out entire villages, killed more than 500 people, and left severe damage to some buildings at Christ for Asia Intl. as well.

The death of Ruel Rabin, pastor of our church in Cebu and a senior staff member at CFAI for over 25 years, hit us all very hard.

Being a Christian does not exempt us from storms, because in reality of life, storms are not a matter of if, but when we have to deal with them. Following Jesus is the guarantee for a fulfilled life but not for a trouble-free life.

Storms are synonymous with negative news, broken hopes, shattered hearts, and dreams that become nightmares. Storms all have something in common: Suddenly we lose control of our lives! Suddenly we no longer have it in our hands. - This is what the disciples experienced, and it is also what we experience: And just like the disciples, every storm of life raises the question for us: What is your foundation, your security? What can you really rely on? That's why it's important to know in the storm that Jesus is with us in the boat.

David knew this and that is why he could say in the well-known 23rd Psalm:

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

And in Ps. 27 he writes into our book:

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Asaph concluded in Ps. 73:

If I have only you, I ask nothing of heaven and earth.

Yes, it is true that the storms are greater than our strength,

“

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Joh. 1.5 ESV

”

but God is greater than the storms.

Knowing this, we experienced how God uses us in the midst of the storm to bring a message of hope to people in need. But just sit for a moment and read for yourself...



Harald Rauch
Founder of CFAI



RELIEF OPERATIONS

VIDEO:

WWW.CHRISTFORASIA.INFO/TAIFUN

It is now five months since Super Typhoon Odette (international: Rai) passed over the Philippines on December 16, forcing over 500,000 people to flee their homes. Absolute chaos broke out immediately after the typhoon. Basic supplies had to be secured: Emergency generators, drinking water, cash, gasoline and much more. Lines stretched for kilometers in front of the gas stations, and some people spent the night in their cars falling in line. Today, more than three months after the typhoon, about 10% of the city is still without electricity and running water. Repairs continue at full speed even if some normality has returned to many parts of the city. For the past three months, CFAI's typhoon relief efforts for the hard-hit regions have been in full swing. Several teams were stationed on several islands at the same time. One team visited several small islands off the neighboring island of Bohol. Only 75 families live on the smallest island. It took only 30 seconds to walk from one side of the island to the other. This island was completely flooded during the typhoon and the locals were able to save themselves in the only two-story building and thus survived the floods and the typhoon. The school building is the only two-story building and became a shelter for the people during the night of the typhoon. These islands were already living without electricity and water supply before the typhoon. They live from fishing, which they sell on the mainland to buy rice and water in canisters. Since most of them have now lost their small fishing boats due to the typhoon, they also had no access to food and water. CFAI was able to transport several tons of rice, emergency supplies and water over several days to these islands, which could only be reached by small wooden boats. On the islands, we were able to pray for the sick and offer them encouragement and comfort.

In total, CFAI was able to rebuild over 450 homes. Since Cebu City itself was severely affected during this typhoon, building materials became scarce within a few days. Through a contact in Manila, we were able to purchase about 50 tons of building materials in two large shipping containers and had them delivered directly to Cebu, from where we then distributed them to the affected locations in several trucks. Reaching people with the love of Jesus and the hope we have in Jesus.

Another team from CFAI was stationed in the south of the island of Cebu, working with a local partner church to rebuild over 200 homes in a small fishing village. Every day there is a "soup kitchen" for the children with a children's program while the building materials are distributed. The small partner church of about 150 members reaches an amazing 850 children per week with the children's program. We are grateful for these partnerships. The people who genuinely lost everything in the typhoon and looked at the rubble of their homes lost their hope for tomorrow. Into this hopelessness, we can be light and hope through the provision of food, the rebuilding of their homes and the message that God wants to be their support in life. One affected woman and mother of five said:

“After the typhoon, we used up the last of our savings to buy tarpaulins, at least to protect ourselves from the rain. But this left us with no money for food. Out of nowhere came the hope package from CFAI with food, water and even hygiene items. When we even got the building materials for our house, we were just speechless.”

We are grateful for all the donations that made it possible for us to give hope in those dark days. Typhoon relief opened the doors for our local church partners to begin life groups and children's programs, and to reach these places and islands with the message of Jesus.

RE-LAUNCHING OF FEEDING MINISTRY

As the Covid-19 pandemic had literally stopped the world for two years, the work of the Lord still continues to develop even in times of difficulty. The Lord has done so much, and he has remained faithful to CFAI over and over again.

The Philippines right now is slowly recovering from the effects of Covid-19 pandemic. With restrictions being slowly lifted, adults and children are now allowed to go out. Shopping Malls were being opened once again, cinemas are open for movies, churches are now allowed to open for Sunday services.

With all these changes to transition back to normal, we have taken these things as an opportunity to expand our ministries' in CFAI. This month we were able to relaunch our STREET FEEDING MINISTRY to different areas in Cebu City. Feeding the stomach and feeding the souls of the children who are hungry for the word of God. This was strictly prohibited during the past two years. The joy in the children's eyes were touching the hearts of our team. The children still memorized all lyrics of our children worship songs. As our staff were hugging and carrying the children, some did not let go of our staff and we saw their need for love and care.

Our priority for the feeding areas are the most challenging parts of the City. These are the areas where you encounter drug lords, crime, violence and hunger on a daily basis. Our Feeding Team have witnessed multiple police raids, gang-fights and many more dangerous situations. This gives us just a glimpse of the reality what these children's daily lives look like. And exactly this is the place where God wants us to shine as a light. And we are glad that after all the local Government gave us permission to re-launch our feeding ministry.

NEW FAMILY CENTER



One year after we launched our first FAMILY CENTER in the heart of the City, CFAI is planning to open a second Family Center, aiming to reach out to children and families in Carbon Public Market – one of the toughest areas in the City. That way we can reach-out even further those children from the feedings that are badly in need of help.



FACE-TO-FACE-CLASSES

For this coming School Year, the Department of Education will allow limited Face-to-Face classes for schools that comply with all the guidelines. As we have many new children from the street that we accepted in our Nehemiah School of Opportunities, these children need to academically catch up, and this is very difficult for them to do in front of a computer. That is why we will be fighting for the approval of doing Face-to-Face classes by next year for our school. Pray with us as we are currently working on all physical and structural changes that must be made to comply with the strict guidelines.



LIFE IN OUR HOMES

CFAI had been rescuing kids from the street to give hope and transformation to their lives. 4 months ago, 13 kids were sheltered, taken care of and given the privilege of education. In an interview with the kids, "Justin" told CFAI how grateful he is. He was able to appreciate the quality of life he has always dreamed of. He then said that if he were not rescued, he would probably be still in the streets begging for food and money. He also stated that he is very thankful to the house parents who are taking care of him because in Project Nehemiah Homes (PNH) he can have his meal at least three times a day. Looking at the child before and after he has really gained weight and is looking healthy. "Danica" as well expressed her gratitude. According to her, she didn't know that Jesus Christ existed, but because of CFAI, she was taught about the love of Jesus. Godly convictions have been planted in her heart. Right now, she is already afraid to start a fight with her playmates because she knows and believes as a little child that Jesus does not like it for her to be making trouble. When kids were asked how it was living in CFAI, they said that they enjoyed it and are grateful for it, as they have so much time to play because they don't need to beg for their food anymore.



CHRIST FOR ASIA INT'L
transforming lives

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Christ for Asia – transforming lives

CFAI - 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

This May 2022, Christ for Asia International will be turning 30. We are in awe of God's goodness and faithfulness over the past 30 years. Close to 400 children went through our Project Nehemiah Homes since the beginning in 1992. Lives have been transformed and are now a healthy part of our society and the Graduates of our programs often come back to become supporters of the ministry themselves. We will be having a special celebration in the Philippines as well as in Germany. We would love to celebrate with you either in Germany or in the Philippines. More Details soon.

SAVE
THE
DATE



RE-LAUNCHING THE PRISON MINISTRY

Since the Covid-19 Lockdown in the Philippines started in March 2020, the Second Chance Youth Prison was also on lockdown and was not accessible for any visitors. Since then, we have been praying that we will be able to continue our bible studies with the 14-17 year old's in the youth prison. After many tries, we have now received the official letter on how glad the prison management is on our Bible Studies and Values Formation Programs with the teens. That is why we have now re-launched our Prison Ministry, with some new staff from CFAI also joining in. Keep our Team in prayer as they start to re-connect with the teens.



Farewell from Ruel Rabin



RUEL HAS GONE HOME

A few days after the terrible typhoon, Ruel, one of our longest serving staff of CFAI, went home. He suffered a heart attack. His life leaves a huge gap, and we are so grateful for all that he invested into the lives of the children and youth in CFAI's ministry.

His wife Dorothy will continue the church she co-led with him.



Volunteers ready to help

After much waiting, hoping, and praying, our five volunteers were finally able to leave for the Philippines in early December (instead of late August). They spent 1-2 weeks in quarantine in a hotel, then experienced the devastating typhoon as a start and helped to pack and distribute relief packages. Slowly, everyday life has set in for them and they are helping in many different areas. We are so grateful that this is possible again.

