

Badjao Tribal Mission

P.O. Box 335
Cebu City 6000
PHILIPPINES
Tel: +63-32-253 3486
Cell: +63-919-3724718
Email: vercueil@yahoo.com
deborachoi0420@hanmail.net

"... a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne..." Rev 7:9

April, 2005

Dear Prayer Partners

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus our Lord and Savior.

The past month has been a very exciting but also a very difficult month. I will start first with the good news.

2nd Lay Leader Training

We had our second Lay Leader Seminar that was attended by 22 Badjao lay leaders and their wives from 4 different islands. We had a great time and our teacher was Pastor Mark Dimerin who is also working very closely with the Badjao in another City. The focus was on the Christian Family in the Badjao context. All the people really enjoyed the seminar and they have learned much. We also started another course that is on video. It is part of the International School of Ministries (ISOM) program and is translated into Cebuano which is our regional language. They also like this seminar. Pray for all these lay workers that they will grow and become strong workers in God's kingdom.



All the Lay leader Seminar Attendees

Fire

Around 6am on Tuesday April 19, I received a phone call from our pastor that our church has burned down. At first I suspected that it was arson and that only our church burned down, but when I arrived in the community I saw that the



The Badjao Village with school and church Nov 2004

whole community burned down. About 200 Badjao houses burned down leaving more than 2000 Badjao people homeless and another 150 Visaya houses (local people) were also burned down. The fire apparently started when with a family fight early in the morning and someone then threw a oil lamp in the house which has set the whole house and the whole community on fire.



Pastor Bogel use his to help other people rescue their things

But the destruction by fire is greater than any of the typhoons. The fire has driven the people to the sea and then on to a reclaimed land that was done by the government. This is where they are presently living in shelters of tents or other make-shift shelters. The government wants to relocate them to another area, but because they are fishermen they need a beachfront area. There is no beachfront area available within the borders of the city so we are negotiating with the adjacent towns for a relocation site. The problem is that they blame us and say that we want to relocate the people, but it is the government that is heading up this relocation. The last two weeks has kept us very busy every day by taking care of the fire victims by treating the injured, providing rice, water tents and other needs to the people.

Our church members are also rather discouraged because of all the happenings. Only a few people attended our first worship in a makeshift tent that was too small. But more people attended the second Sunday which we held underneath a bridge.



1st Worship under tent

2nd Worship under bridge

*God bless
Petrus and Chunghee Vercueil*