

Badjao Tribal Mission

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They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language, and they stood before the throne and before the Lamb. Rev 7:9

January 2006

Dear Prayer Supporters:

Christmas again was as usual again one of the busiest times for us. During this time we often have to remind ourselves that Christ is the reason for this season and that our business should not overshadow the importance of Christ during this season. This is often easier said than done.

Bundles of love with a problem

As we did two years ago, we again wanted to distribute bundles of joy that include rice, coffee, sugar, canned foods, and clothes to our Badjao community. Our church members would go from house to house with the message of Christmas. They would also sing and pray for the people in their houses. But the leader of the community, Molo, stopped us from continuing because he did not want us to pray for the people in their houses. This has been a major problem for our church. We were able to distribute rice to the other half of the community but not yet to this group.

Church Camp

This year we had a lesser number of people that were attending our national camp than other years. This was partly due to the increase in the camp fee but a bigger problem was the state of their houses. After the fire they still live in very temporary houses and they cannot secure their houses when they leave, so there always has to be someone at home to watch the house. Although the numbers were fewer, we still had a great camp and we believe that many of the campers' houses were really touched and changed through God's Holy Spirit.

Badjao Relocation Project

Since November, there has been new hope and progress in the relocation of the Badjao community. One of the main reasons has been a new administrator that has been appointed to the project. But the government still seems to drag its feet. We were told it is a go-ahead signal just to be told the next week not yet. It has been very frustrating for us. Once we were told the date of the signing of the agreement, I left the camp site early and drove a few hours back to the city, just to be told that the agreement is not yet ready. This happened several times, at one time I felt like giving up on this whole program. But we are pushing on. There are several members in the group and I have committed our mission to the following:

1. Rebuilding of 5 houses at the cost of P40,000 each or US\$2,000.00
2. Reclaiming land of 1000m² at the cost of P750,000 or US\$15,000.00 (this land will be used for the rebuilding of our church and school)
3. Boat for the transportation of people and materials to the island P100,000 or US\$2000.00
4. Rebuilding the school and church. P4,000,000 or US\$80,000.00

The first three commitments will be needed as soon as we have the go-ahead for the project. The 4th commitment will take a while, as we to wait for the relocation to become sturdy, maybe 1 year after the reclamation started.

Mango Farm

The mango farm is developing slowly but surely. The last month and a half we have received above average rainfall here in our province. We are very thankful for the rain, but farmers always complain about the rain. The difficulty for us was that with all the rain the buffalos could not plow the land because the soil is too sticky. Because we could not find a tractor earlier, we missed the good wet season as well as the planting season for our first crop of corn.

We started to drill at a new site since the other site was damaged. The new site seems a lot more promising because we already found some water though not yet enough. We are building now a storage area and a place for the workers to stay. Up to now they have been living underneath a huge mango tree. Pray with us that we can finish this building soon.

Teams

One of the other things that has kept us very busy but that has also been a big blessing to us was the teams that we have had. We had a Youth With A Mission DTS outreach team from Cheju in Korea. This 12-member team stayed with us for 2 months and, although they kept us very busy, especially since they did not speak English, they were also a big blessing to us.

During the first week of January we had a medical team with us. Although they only stayed a few days, they were able to treat more than 200 patients during their time with us.

The last week of January we have a big team (69 members) of elementary and high school students that are on a mission exposure trip for one week. Just preparing for this team has already consumed much time, but we pray that God will touch the hearts of many of these children that will come. I remember that God touched my heart for missions in a special way when I went on a mission exposure trip with my school when I was in high school.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for Molo, the leader of the community that stopped us from distributing the love gifts. Pray that God will change his heart and change that community.
2. Pray for God's provision in the commitments we have made toward the relocation of the Badjao community.
3. Pray that we will soon find strong water on the farm and that we can finish the building soon.
4. Pray for God's grace upon us and the student team that will be visiting us.
5. Pray also for strength for our family. We almost did not have any off-day since November.

God Bless!

Petrus and Chunghee Vercueil