

Janna Robertson

From: Lance Patterson <pattersonlance@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 11:10 AM
To: Lance Patterson
Subject: Update

There was an old ditty we first heard on Captain Kangaroo back in the 60s that went like this: "Oh, no don't let the rain come down, my roof's got a whole in it and I might drown."

Well, when we arrived in Manila from Negros on Wednesday night it was raining. We got home at 3am in the rain, and it is still raining. And right now we are trapped at church. I guess there could be worse places to be trapped.

The rain had tapered off this morning but just as we were getting ready to catch a bus for church it started again. Big time again. Sheets of rain. We had food prepared to take with us to church to make a day of it because Hannah is here also and will be leaving for home tomorrow. So her brother, Josiah, drove his little car, a Honda Fit, to bring the food along with Lhey's mom and aunt, Ethan, and his two cousins. Lhey and I with her cousin Toto and wife Fen, went down to get a bus. Josiah took his load into town before the rain got too bad, but we waited for nearly an hour for a bus, and finally had to settle for a jeepney. By the time we got into town the flood had started. It was six inches deep in the middle of the road. Our driver was kind enough to take us an extra block off his route to a 7-11 that is on a high corner, but we still got our feet soaked getting out of the jeepney.

Then we waited for another hour. Josiah was going to try and pick us up, but between the church and us was the lowest point in town and it was already too deep for his car. Finally a local jeepney came by with no passengers. We waved him down and asked if he would turn around and take us to the church. Yes, or 200 pesos. The normal fare is 9 per person, but under the circumstances it was worth it. In fact, we just found out how worth it. The place where we were standing is now as I write under three to four feet of water.

The driver backed his jeepney up to the curb so we could get on without getting into the water, and did the same at the church because it was about the same depth here. We arrived in time for the preaching. There were only about 50 people in church. The rains kept coming and by the time the service was over the rain was up to the first step of the porch and almost as high as the door to the Sunday school rooms in the rear. Several people took courage and waded out into the street in knee deep water to make their ways home, but several stayed to wait it out.

Well, we had planned to feed about 15, but we wound up sharing our food with over thirty. The tide is in so the rain has no place to drain, so we'll have to wait for high tide to pass and then for the waters to drain off. It's already beginning to recede a little as the rain has slowed some, but we aren't planning to leave until the roads are clear. Lord willing we will be getting an SUV this week so we won't have this transportation problem anymore, but this rain came at just about the worst time.

Interesting though, we arrived here in 2013 just in time for the worst typhoon ever to hit Olongapo. The water was eight feet deep in the center of town that time. We come back this year to two more typhoons and two tropical storms right in a row and non-stop rain for the last four days and a half flooded town. Well, at least the weather is consistent for us.

We'd like to ask prayer for Fen's (short for Josephine) father. They live in Pangasinan which is a hundred miles north of us along the Lingayen Gulf. Fen's family has a large farm and rice fields. The fields are all under two or three feet of water. Her father was bitten by a dog pretty severely yesterday (Saturday). They floated him in a dugout canoe across the fields to get him to a doctor. Pray that he'll recover quickly.

Also pray for some other church members, Leo and Esther Edition. They couldn't make it to church because the water at their house is up to their waists ... in the house. They'll have some cleaning to do. And for Orley and Mardol Guiang, and Judy Pazon. They are above the flood, but both of their houses are on hill sides and the water runoff I think raised the water table to high they had springs of water breaking up under their floors and flooding their houses.

Well I bought a new pair of dress shoes before we left and brought them back and today was the first day I wore them. I guess the flood will help break them in.

And just before I could send this, the power went out and we are all sitting in the dark waiting for the rain to stop. So you'll see this when we have power again, and hopefully by then we will have made it home.

10pm

Okay, we sat at the church all afternoon while the water got deeper on the street, then turned a murky brown and the rains kept coming down. The tide was supposed to crest around 4pm, but it was almost 7 before the water began to recede, and every time we thought we made a little progress another squall passed over and it got deeper again.

Finally the rain let up and the street drained, and we were able to get to the bus station. But the bus was only going to the turnoff at Tipo and getting on the expressway there, before our area, because the road beyond us is still under water. We left just before 9pm and by the time we arrived at the tricycle park at Tipo it was raining again, but we were finally able to get home around 9:30.

And the power was out. So we lit candles, had something to eat, and I sat and played one of my accordions for awhile until the power came on, and now hopefully you're going to see this letter. It is still pouring down rain but we are safe and sound, ... and still soaked.

And the internet is so slow I can't even get the mail to load to send this, so you may not see it today. The typhoon is predicted to be gone by 5am tomorrow.

Monday night:

There's more. After we got home the rain came in sheets again and the center of town where we just rode out on the bus was back up to four feet. Hannah had a flight out at noon today from Manila. Her family planned to take her at midnight, but by then they could barely get to the bus station and the buses didn't run until 3am because the water was too

deep. They finally got out and to the airport before 8am, and she got her flight in time. Last we heard her connection was delayed in South Korea, but she's on her way.

Back here at home it rained intermittently during the day. We went to town to check on the exchange rate at our moneychanger and the bank, but the bank never opened today, and the exchange rate had dropped considerably because of the flood. They told me it should be back up tomorrow so we will try again to organize the purchase of our car. The streets in town were all covered with mud, some places so bad you thought it looked like an old western town after a storm.

But we are safe at home again tonight. Hope you are too.

Lance Patterson
Philippines