

EARTHQUAKE - TSUNAMI UPDATE , 7:05 AM, Wednesday, Sept 30th, 2009

We want to thank all who have been writing and calling to express your concern and prayers for all who have been affected by the earthquake and tsunami that struck the Samoan Islands yesterday (Tuesday, Sept 29th). Its now Wednesday morning and I am presently writing to you from M.D. Anderson Cancer Clinic in Houston, TX, having just returned from a very encouraging mission trip to Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Following my check-up at M.D. Anderson, we will begin our return to Tutuila Island, American Samoa on this coming Saturday morning, arriving in the territory on Sunday night.

Yesterday when the massive earthquake and tsunami struck, I was working online to update our radio programming for KULA 95.1 FM, which broadcasts in American Samoa. While connected to our computer that is located inside the studio, all of the sudden our EAS system (Emergency Alert System) flashed up an alert notice! Within two minutes, I was speaking with our co-worker brother Rocco Pierce. He was simultaneously on the phone with a friend of ours who was standing on top of a building in the Pago Pago capital area, and witnessing one of the tsunami waves that struck our island. Although there was very little time between the earthquake and the time that the tsunami actually struck our island, there was enough time for EAS alerts to be received and then sent out through our station and to the people residing American Samoa. Many people were able to get to higher ground, but still there were those who did not have access to the warnings.

What has followed is certainly heartbreaking....death, injury, and property damage is being assessed as officials work dilligently in both the nation of American Samoa and the nation of Samoa. As of this writing (Wed morning, 7:45 a.m.), reports are indicating that there may be as many as 99 people dead and more are expected to be confirmed as the day goes on. Property damage is high, as can be expected when huge waves strike our coastal regions. Reports are telling that American Samoa may have suffered the brunt of the earthquake and tsunami damage. From the time the earthquake and tsunami struck, I have been able to keep phone contact with people in the territory, even though a good number of lines of communication were disrupted. We have received photos (see photos attached) from Rocco Pierce and others which show a great loss of property...however, our hearts are heavily burdened by the loss of life encountered by the dear Samoan people.

Some of you have requested how you can help....first let me say thank you for your loving concern. Today I will be working to confirm immediate needs and I expect to write later today with more details. In the meanwhile, if you want to send any relief funds, please send them to our overseeing elders at the Forest Park church of Christ, P.O. Box 1405, Forest Park, GA 30298. This is the quickest way for us to have access to funds to use on the field. Again, thank you

for your love and concern. Continue to pray.....God is good and He will hear your prayers!

In Christ we live and serve,

Randy & Sharon English

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