

From: Randy English
Tutuila Island, American Samoa
Wednesday, October 7th, 2009
4:45 p.m. (10:45 p.m. Central Time US)

Greetings from the English family here on Tutuila Island. I want to share something important that has happened today....

Many of you know that we are fully underway with relief efforts here in the territory of American Samoa and also in the adjoining country of Samoa (see photos below). We want to thank you for the kind letters, prayers, and the relief funds/efforts that are being put forth. We also want to respectfully and urgently request that you speak to others there and petition them to help by praying and sending relief fundsthere is much to do as we are at the beginning of this effort. There are countless opportunities to serve the physical and spiritual needs of people who are hurting and without. So, please, first do whatever you can personally, and then pass along our request to others. It is important. It is an opportunity that you and I can serve the needs of others who are without and suffering. Please send your contributions to the following address: Forest Park church of Christ, P.O. Box 1405, Forest Park, GA 30298, and memo those funds to be used for Samoan Relief Fund. Also, we never forget that these same people that are suffering physically also have spiritual needs. Our relief and recovery efforts would not be complete without helping them to know Jesus, His church, and God's way of salvation. As we prepare them to recover and return to everyday life, we must likewise *prepare them to eternal life*. Something has happened today that I believe illustrates this in an encouraging way.....

...As many of you may have heard by now, just a few hours ago ANOTHER earthquake struck in the Pacific, near the nation of Vanuatu. As did the earthquake that struck the Samoan Islands last week, the earthquake that struck today also set off a tsunami. Here's what happened at the English home:

"...It was after lunch today and Sharon and I and the children were preparing to go to some of the areas that were struck by last week's tsunami, when all of the sudden I received a call from the American Samoa Emergency Operations Center (via a Motorola two way radio) announcing that a large earthquake had struck near Vanuatu. I had been on the phone with this government agency several times previous in the day, to gain information about ongoing recovery efforts for the community.....**but this call was different.....** Since we operate KULA 95.1 FM in this country, the EOC center called to provide this announcement to our station, plus other stations that are still able to broadcast after last week's tsunami strike. The EOC agency then told us that a "**tsunami watch**" was being issued, but that no wave had yet been confirmed. We then immediately interrupted the KULA broadcast to relay these announcements. Doing so almost gave me a sick feeling, thinking about the thousands of people in our territory who must be listening, hanging on to every announcement because of the disaster relief and recovery efforts. Within minutes people started calling and asking us

questions like “...is this true? Is this really happening....again?” We felt for them, and, quite frankly for the safety of our own family and our co-workers. I prayed. I know others prayed. You see, our nation is at *the beginning of relief and recovery from last week’s devastating tsunami.....*although much is being done, there are people still without necessities of life. Piles and piles of rubble are still present. Cars overturned. Houses flattened. Boards, iron, and rubbish is everywhere in the areas that have been struck. The question of “is this really going to happen again” kept running through my mind, as I’m sure that it did others.

Within a few minutes of the tsunami watch alert, a power outage hit a mountain top location where one of our translators is located (97.1). Our translator went off the air immediately, as did the transmitters from another local station. Thankfully, still our primary station was up and running. Well, within minutes the news got worse.....another call came across to our station...this time the message was “**....a tsunami wave has been confirmed....the strike time for American Samoa estimated to be 2:52 p.m. – All residents in low/coastal areas are asked to evacuate and move to higher ground....**” (that’s 8:52 p.m. Central USA time). Having received this alert, I quickly began getting it out onto our broadcast. Other calls continued coming in from various agencies, each of which of course is still gathering forces to deal with last week’s strike. Their message was the same.....”*a tsunami has been confirmed. Strike time is estimated to be 2:52. All residents should remain calm. Follow procedures.....etc., etc*” We continued making announcements on the air. Sharon asked me if I thought we should get to higher ground – I replied no, believing that we are safe, given the elevation of our home and the KULA studio. At that moment, I couldn’t help but think of the families that have been through so much in the past week, only now to be told that *another tsunami* was headed toward our island and other islands in the Pacific. There are many things that you have to give attention to during a time like this, but there’s very little time to act. That’s why being prepared is so very important. Additionally, the church has a wonderful opportunity to help people here through the radio station’s broadcast...and although the news at this very moment was not good, I knew that we were at the right place and at the right time. In between the announcements I tried my best to broadcast things that would be of comfort to anyone listening, while of course relaying repeatedly any important messages from officials. Then....all of the sudden.....over the two way radio, came the words that are still echoing in my mind – “**The tsunami strike is cancelled. I repeat – the tsunami strike at 2:52 is cancelled....**”

We immediately started sending this joyful news out over the air. Yes, even though once again we were interrupting our regular broadcast, it was still a great joy and relief to send this particular message out over the air! Still yet, I have to admit, ...anytime we have to “interrupt” a broadcast, I am always concern about what exactly it was that got interrupted! Was it a Gospel sermon, or a song, or a Bible lesson,or what? Well, it turned out that this time it was indeed a Gospel sermon....and I quickly noticed from the time remaining that the speaker was

nearing the end of this excellent message from the Word of God. But as we ran the last notice of this good news that the tsunami was cancelled, it turned out that there was in fact some other “good news” that began playing on our station. Just as the tsunami cancellation notice completed and had come to an end, the sermon resumed but was also coming to an end. Almost exhausted from the recent whirlwind of the past two hours, I decided to just sit down for a moment and listen. Wouldn't you know it....In the closing statements of our brother's Bible sermon, the all important question was being asked.....“are you ready – are you prepared?” Imagine the minds of those who heard ***this particular question ask at this particular time.*** Brethren and friends everywhere.....that's a question that all of us should ask AND answer, according to the Bible.

I am thankful to tell you that the sermon went on to help listeners know what they must do to “be ready” by obeying God. The sermon, just like the emergency announcement, went on to tell people listening exactly what they must do to be prepared, and to do so without delay. **What a great day, ...and it's not even over yet!** With humble hearts full of thanksgiving, we say Thank you Lord for blessing us. Thank you Lord for strengthening us to serve. Thank you for helping us to be prepared.

In Christ we live and serve,

Randy & Sharon English

**Tutuila Island,
American Samoa
thesonlight@hotmail.com
sonlight@samoatelco.com**