

Saturday, October 31st, 2009

Update >From Randy English

Tutuila Island, American Samoa

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|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Sagua Mifa | 35 Jalelia | 67 Sam Suisala |
| 2 Misi | 36 Milenale | 68 Kalala |
| 3 Kelona | 37 Ao | 69 Mele La |
| 4 Losa | 38 Jala | 70 Logoapi |
| 5 Jiva | 39 Jekono | 71 Anka Jekoni |
| 6 Jata T. | 40 Sione | 72 Luitoa |
| 7 Viliamu | 41 Jua | 73 JR. Aua |
| 8 Mione | 42 Paka Aua | 74 Pua |
| 9 Paka Palaga | 43 Siaga | 75 Eate Tovu |
| 10 Poti | 44 Afiki | |
| 11 Jiaope Mione | 45 Sinei | |
| 12 Epe | 46 Meala | |
| 13 Micia P. | 47 Tutuama | |
| 14 Jessie | 48 Miumua | |
| 15 Mahituli | 49 Pipii | |
| 16 Jagan | 50 Jagan | |
| 17 Jiaope M. | 51 Jagan | |
| 18 Tommy Jagan | 52 Sita Eua | |
| 19 Samuelu | 53 Samuelu Rita | |
| 20 Talia Mahituli | 54 Valia | |
| 21 Selusi | 55 Lita | |
| 22 Sia | 56 Jaga | |
| 23 Japola | 57 Sita | |
| 24 Vitoli | 58 Samuelu Jekoni | |
| 25 Tava | 59 Lantili | |
| 26 Anosai | 60 Mele | |
| 27 Jaga | 61 Paulo | |
| 28 Jasmale | 62 Paka | |
| 29 Kikiaga | 63 Elete Aua | |
| 30 Penitito | 64 Jimo | |
| 31 Jaga | 65 Lita | |
| 32 Aloia | 66 Samuelu Mione | |
| 33 Mahituli | | |
| 34 Samuelu Jaga | | |

“Amanave’ s List”

Do you ever make up “lists”? I do. Lists of things to do, things to purchase, lists of people to visit....I make up lots of lists. I need lists. Lists help me to organize....*lists help me to remember*. This week we received a very important list and we also made up a very important list. First, I was given “Amanave’ s List” by the Pulenu’u (mayor) of Amanave Village. It had been carefully and thoughtfully written out on the back of a torn, water stained bank statement (in lieu of not having any writing paper). On this list were the names of 75 families who call Amanave Village, American Samoa, “home”. These are 75 families who are blessed to be alive, and yet who have suffered the loss of perhaps their entire home, or at least most of the everyday things that are common to any household list....even something as simple as a piece of writing paper. Second, this past week we prepared our own list....a list of essential items needed for the men, women, and children of Amanave Village who have suffered great loss from the Sept 29th tsunami. Armed with both lists, last night we completed the distribution of relief supplies at Amanave Village in the Western District of Tutuila Island, American Samoa. Omeka Malila, Peteru Taliloa, and I organized this work effort between members of the Leone church of Christ and the village mayor. Throughout all this past week, Leone members worked with this key village official to determine the exact number of families that had either completely lost their homes or had homes that were badly damaged. Although the completed list of the 75 families affected was not presented to us until Thursday, Sharon and I went to work right away on purchasing and organizing the items that were needed at Amanave Village. The Leone church of Christ has done similar such distributions at Leone Village and Asili Village, and is planning to continue assisting others as we determine their needs according to updated assessments. Regular assessments are important simply because the needs do change as further progress is being made. While there are some logistical difficulties here on the ground, yesterday’s distribution at Amanave was completed without any problems, and important needs were served among those on “Amanave’ s List”.



“Samoan Samsonite”

In anticipation of the final list from the village Pulenu’u, we set up to prepare relief for 100 households. When the final list arrived, it included 75 family names. We were so thankful to have enough prepared for every family in the village that had been affected by the tsunami, plus the extra supplies are now already prepared and ready to be used for a distribution to another village in need. To help better organize the Amanave distribution, we were able to use very large colorful “Samoan Bags” to group the items given to each family. We purchased these reusable bags from a local vendor at a discounted price of \$1.25 each. Often when Samoans travel, you will see these bags being used to carry extra personal belongings. Over the past 20 years of living and working here in the Samoan Islands, our family has lovingly referred to these bags as “Samoan Samsonite”, since they are so very large and colorful. As we wrote to you a couple of days ago, we were really amazed at what all we could fit into these heavy duty bags. The relief items given in yesterday’s distribution included plastic dishware, eating and cooking utensils, cups, various sized plastic bowls, lava lavas, serving tray, nylon rope, hammer, bush knife, large aluminum kettle, box of tea, bag of sugar, canned fish, large cooking wok, work gloves, children’s treats, and Samoan Bibles. Each of the 75 families in need at Amanave (plus 4 others families whose names did not make it on the initial assessment list) received the very same items, plus 4 gallons of purified water and a 20lb of rice.



“Planning The Work...Working The Plan”

Purchasing the items needed for distributions such as this is becoming increasingly more difficult here on Tutuila Island. Although inventories are diminishing, we have thus far been able to acquire locally everything we've needed for distributions to the affected villages. Inasmuch as possible, we hope to purchase relief items locally, although there are plans for bringing in some shipments from off island. Also, in our distribution plan, it is very important that we continue distributing goods directly into the hands of those who are in need. In this way, we have the opportunity to better serve individuals throughout their recovery. Yesterday at Amanave village was

another special opportunity to personally greet the individuals receiving the relief items, and to visit with them about “what happened on that day, Sept 29th,”.....their stories are incredible. They are sad stories, and yet stories of overcoming great odds. Those who survived are thankful, and yesterday they expressed sincere thankfulness to the church for thinking of them in this way. Their voices have, now, a tone of hope...they believe truly that they will be able to rebuild over a period of time. Right now, I believe that they are just cherishing the fact that they are alive.



Through the combined efforts of churches of Christ throughout the USA and other parts of the world, it is evident that God is blessing the Leone church of Christ in serving the needs of many people both here in American Samoa and in neighboring Samoa. Although the congregation is small in number, and has also recently lost its own meeting place where it had met for the past 20 years, members of the Leone church of Christ are certain that the needs of area people are greater than its own. They know, as do you who are helping, that truly *it is better to give than to receive*.

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