

Bishop Coyner urges relief gifts through UMCOR

UMCOR responds to Philippines typhoon

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Philippines is working with its local partners including Action by Churches Together (ACT) and the National Council of Churches to provide relief to those affected by Typhoon Ketsana, also called Ondoy, in the Philippines. According to the National Disaster Coordination Council (NDCC) nearly half a million people are affected. Hours of heavy rain and high winds caused flashfloods and landslides. 144 people are confirmed dead, and that number is expected to rise as new deaths are reported.

Over the weekend, the government declared a "state of calamity" in Manila and the 25 storm-hit provinces. While the damage is widespread, residential areas in Manila, Muntinlupa and Taguig are the hardest hit. The BBC reports that 80% of Manila is underwater, displacing 450,000 people.

Melissa Crutchfield, executive for UMCOR's International Disaster Response says, "Because of the extent of the flooding, we are in the beginning stages of assessing the damage. UMCOR will work quickly to understand the situation and respond where we are needed." -- UMCOR

For more information and to contribute online, click [here](#).

Manila bishop pleads for relief in aftermath of typhoon

Bishop Lito Cabacungan Tangonan of the Manila Episcopal Area is calling on all Methodists Christians worldwide to help and support the survivors of the devastating typhoon Ondoy which submerged the National Capital Region especially those living in Cainta, Marikina, Pasig and Payatas in Quezon City. As of Sept. 28, tropical storm Ondoy left behind a trail of 144 residents dead, 32 missing and 7,908 people were rescued affecting 86,313 families.

Bishop Tangonan writes, "The calamity brought havoc to the lives of our people and they need our prayers, financial support and helping hands during this time of calamity. As one Christian family, we appeal to each of you to give whatever you can to help our people in this time of tragedy. Thank you and God bless."

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is working with Bishop Tangonan and the MEALAB Relief Operation to provide immediate relief. Donations are to be made for relief for the Philippines. Support for UMCOR's relief work in the Philippines through Philippines Emergency, **UMCOR Advance #240235**.

In response to this tragedy, Indiana Bishop Mike Coyner writes, "By now I am sure everyone has heard the news of the terrible flooding in the Philippines. I have a personal friendship with many United Methodists in the Philippines, including Bishop Leo Soriano in the Manila Area. I urge our United Methodist people in Indiana to give to through Philippines Emergency, **UMCOR Advance #240235** to provide funds for relief in that part of our worldwide United Methodist Church. Thank you."



REUTERS/Cheryl Ravelo

Residents wait to be rescued after flashfloods caused by Typhoon Ondoy hit Provident Village in Marikina City, Metro Manila Sept. 27. Manila was blacked out and airline flights were suspended as a powerful typhoon battered the main Philippines island of Luzon on Saturday, disaster officials said.