

Dear Friends and Partners of Seek God Ministries:

Thank You for your prayers concerning the typhoon "Parma" which hit northern Luzon in the Philippines on Saturday. Here is an excerpt from the Manila Bulletin that appeared in their online edition this morning. It is Monday morning here, October 5, 2009.

"Prayers worked. And so it seemed to the weather forecasters at the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), who monitored drastic changes in the strength and direction that Typhoon "Parma" has been taking since late Friday night. PAGASA Director Nathaniel Cruz said the country miraculously dodged a "bullet"." End of quote.

We did experience a lot of rain in our location but it was like a normal storm here during rainy season. We did not get very high winds. In Manila they also got some rain and it did make the stagnant water rise in the places where the floods have not fully receded yet. Fourteen people were killed by mud slides because of the rain in northern Luzon Island. However, the destruction and loss of life was much less than what could have been if the typhoon Parma had not weakened. We have contacted the two pastors we oversee in northern Luzon which is closer to where the typhoon came across the island. They both report that they, their families, and congregations are all fine. Also there was no damage to the churches or their houses.

Even so, there is another super typhoon named "Melor" that is approaching the Northern Philippines. This one looks like a monster, a well organized category 5 typhoon, with winds at 165 mph and gusts up to 200 mph. The good news is that it isn't expected to hit the Philippines. However, it seems to be interacting with the previous typhoon so we are watching it closely to see which way it goes.

It is reported that there are 400,000 flood victims still in shelters in Manila. The blame game has begun about why low-lying-flood-prone areas around Manila were allowed to be developed into high density population areas. The two things that are always blamed here for nearly everything are the corruption and the poverty. In this case corruption probably allowed some housing developments in areas where they should not have been allowed and poverty caused many to set up squatter homes along riverbanks and other dangerous places.

The truth is that many people in the Philippines live in areas that could be prone to floods and mudslides if they get excessive rain. Climate change is also being blamed for the more severe weather we are experiencing in the Philippines.

What ever the reasons all we need to do is look at the news in the last two weeks about storms, earthquakes, tsunamis, Iran's nuclear hide and seek game, and the continuing world economic weakness, to know that we are experiencing the birth pangs that Jesus told about.

And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be

saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:4-14)

The phrase that Jesus used "beginning of sorrows" is the term used for when a woman begins labor pains to give birth to a child. Just as when a woman is giving birth we can expect the birth pangs to increase in intensity and frequency as we approach the end of this age. We need to focus on Jesus so that we are not deceived and we do not to allow our love to grow cold during these times.

In the next chapter, Matthew 25, Jesus gives three examples of how to do this. The first is the parable of the 10 virgins waiting for the bridegroom, which represents Jesus. Five were wise and five were foolish. The wise kept their lamps full of oil, which represents being full of the Holy Spirit. **And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. (Matthew 25:10)**

The second example is the parable of talents. Where Jesus teaches how we will be rewarded by what we do with what we have. Our talents, gifts, and resources, are all given by God and they should be invested for His glory in the Kingdom of Heaven looking forward to our eternal rewards.

The third example is the story of how Jesus separates the sheep from the goats.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' (Matthew 25:34-40)

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:16-18)

Thank You for being our friend and partner in the ministry. Because of your partnership, together we are bringing God's love in word and deed to those most in need. We love you and always include our partners in our prayers.

Gary and family
Seek God Ministries

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