

1:ONE

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PHOTO CREDIT: GINO ROMERO

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS READY TO AID FELLOW WORKERS IN PHILIPPINES

MANILA, PHILIPPINES -

Usually Filipino children celebrate typhoons. Like a "snow day" in North America, typhoons mean Filipino children get a day off school. In the Philippines, typhoons happen so frequently that no one panics.

But on September 26th, Typhoon Ketsana hit the Philippines with 62 mph winds and over a month's worth of rain in 12 hours. 246 people were reported dead and 38 others missing.

"Usually we have time to prepare," explained International Teams Philippines CEO, Pastor Gani Sison. "But this time the streets were like rivers. Even people who could swim drowned because there was a lot of mud in the water. Cars piled up on top of each other. People were trapped behind the iron grills on their windows. Emergency workers could not get through. There has been no clean water to clean up the mess of mud. No electricity. The garbage trucks cannot pick up the trash and people are starting to get sick as a result."

Gani was one of the lucky ones. He only lost major appliances, furniture and memorabilia. Others lost family members. Still, the destruction of almost everything on the ground floor of his house is an incredible hardship. And the loss of



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CAFE OWNER COMES TO FAITH WITH MIRACLE HEALING, DREAMS AND FRIENDSHIP

ARABIAN PENINSULA - It was a night like most others when ITeams workers Matthew* and Julia* stopped by a take-out food cafe in their dusty town. The muezzins had just broadcast their last call to prayer from a local mosque. Julia waited outside. She felt she should pray.



Inside, Matthew had difficulty placing his order. The staff called for Ahmed*, the cafe owner, to help understand the foreigner's Arabic.

"I noticed that the owner was reluctant to come forward," Matthew said. "I suddenly felt that I should pray for him. I asked him, 'Do you have pain somewhere in your body?' Ahmed admitted that

he has suffered with neck pain 2-3 times a week since he was a child. Then I asked him if I could pray for him."

Matthew prayed for Ahmed on the spot. Ahmed was amazed and moved. He peeled back his sleeve to show Matthew the goose bumps on his arm.

"When you prayed for me, it felt like cold water was

being poured over me from my head to my toes – and my pain is completely gone!" Ahmed said.

Matthew shared the gospel with Ahmed "from creation to the cross" and explained our need for forgiveness.

"I told Ahmed that God had healed him and that I would be praying that God would protect the seed that was planted in him. 'I will pray that God will give you a dream tonight,' I told him."

When Matthew visited Ahmed a few weeks later, Ahmed exclaimed that he had had a dream. "I think God came to visit me!" Ahmed said he saw a man in a white robe and surrounded by a bright white light. Jesus spoke, saying, "Ahmed, do not be con-

sumed with this life, for this life is ending. Work for your life that is coming."

Ahmed's miraculous healing, dream and friendship with Matthew are very important factors that contribute to the transformation that is happening in his life. These, according to a Fuller Theological Seminary survey, are common factors in the case of Muslims' understanding of Christianity. Genuine love among Christians, authenticity, treating women as equals and loving marriages are some of the other factors.

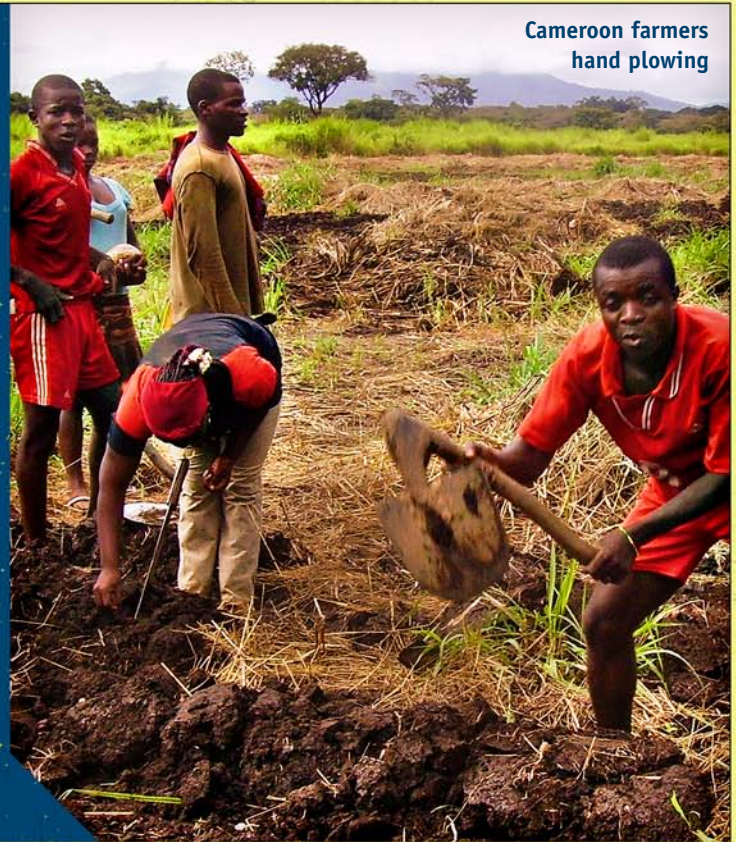
Matthew and Julia are just as amazed and humbled as Ahmed to see the mighty hand of God working through miracles and dreams to heal and save the lost. **BLM**

**names have been changed*



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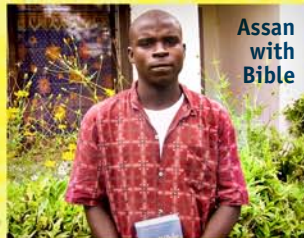
YIMBÉRE, CAMEROON - Sammy Weber (24), an International Teams worker, grew up in Cameroon where his parents were translators with Lutheran Bible Translators.



Cameroon farmers hand plowing

After study in the United States, he returned to Cameroon and, together with his partner Bruno, established a 3-part strategy for reaching out to the Cameroonian people, particularly those of the Wawa tribe in which not a single member is Christian.

The first part of Sammy's plan has to do with mobilizing Cameroonian churches by helping them to see that even with their limited resources, they can send out missionaries. The second part is mentoring young people so that they will grow in their faith and form teams that will disciple others. Thirdly, Sammy established a scholarship called Systeme de Bourse that provides $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of high school fees for motivated young people. The scholar-



Assan with Bible

ships are valued at \$35,000 CFA (\$78.00 USD) each. All recipients must generate some income by working on farms or doing some other kind of development work in their village. Eventually it will be a self-supporting program. In addition, recipients must participate in a Bible study. So far, 50 young people have enrolled in the program with very positive results.

Assan, for example, a Systeme de Bourse student, suffered from severe migraine headaches. In his Bible study he prayed, "God if you're real,

please heal me." Within 5 minutes his headache vanished. After the Bible study he confessed that he was struggling with whether he was a Christian or not. Sammy and Bruno are discipling him now and he's excited to grow in his faith so that he can evangelize and disciple others.

"I think part of the reason for the success of the program is that there has been lots of investment in Cam-

eroon already by long-term missionaries. They laid the ground work," said Sammy.

Ultimately, Sammy would like to motivate Cameroonian students to share the gospel with their own people.

God is moving among young Christian leaders like Sammy who are using their skills in creative ways to reach out to the unreached people of the world with the gospel message of hope. **BLM**



Sammy and ministry partner Bruno



TAKING ACTION

PRAY Please pray with us that our Father will continue to work through his faithful servants, Matthew and Julia, as they boldly share and care for people as God directs them.

GO Perhaps God is prompting you to consider serving as a missionary. Go to iteams.org/go to find out more about opportunities to serve as God directs you.



GIVE We have opened a PHILIPPINES EMERGENCY RELIEF fund to help ITeams workers in the Philippines. To donate online go to <http://www.iteams.org/ph-relief>.



Choose to change a life. Learn how at www.livebygiving.org

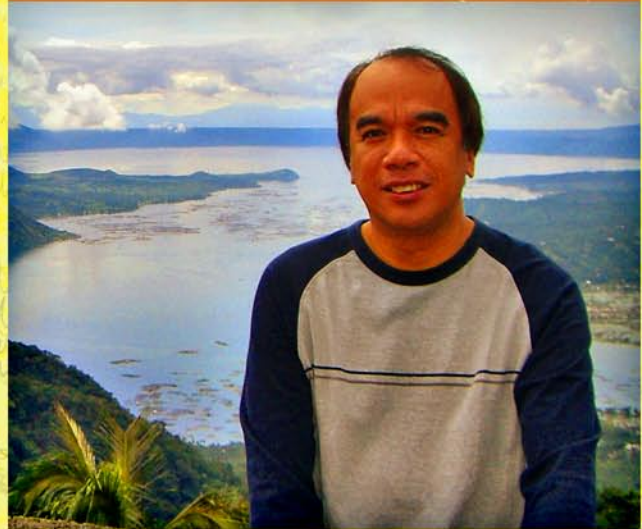
INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

1:ONE

Bringing people together to help the oppressed

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International Teams Philippines CEO, Pastor Gani Sison



all family and ministry photo albums and videos means the loss of precious memories. It's hard to imagine such devastation.

Many of the people who look to Gani for guidance and direction are looking to him now more than ever for encouragement and help with their physical needs.

For example, Niel Romero, an International Teams worker, lost his van when it became completely sub-

merged in muddy water. His appliances survived but his Bible is gone.

In spite of his own losses, Niel will distribute relief packages consisting of rice, canned food, drinking water and clothing to the people in Cogeo, a squatter area where he works. Here, many homes were washed out leaving 2 children dead and 60 families homeless.

When God's workers experience this degree of urgent need we want to respond.

International Teams has opened a Philippines Emergency Relief Fund to help our workers in the Philippines. All gifts will be sent to the ITeams Philippines office, where Pastor Gani and his team will direct funds to those most in need. To donate go to www.iteams.org/ph-relief. **BLM**



Kids in the Bangong Pook Dumpsite