“HOW COULD GOD LET THIS HAPPEN?”

Binhi sang Pagtuo

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Dear Friends,

Greetings!

It has been a week since the Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) brought its havoc to the Visayas region of the Philippines. The devastation that you can see in the pictures and television just break your heart. The outpouring of love, support and donations from fellow Filipinos and other countries are so overwhelming. Thank you very much!

There are a lot of questions that are on our minds nowadays. Foremost on this is – “Why did God allow this to happen?”

Here are the answers that I heard:

First, God is punishing us. The Filipino people is deserving of this punishment because we have become corrupt, idolaters and unrighteous.

Second, God has a grand design. The super typhoon that hit us is part of God’s purpose. We do not know yet what the purpose of God is, but it has a purpose.

Third, God is teaching us a lesson. The country is being taught by God how to properly prepare for the next calamity. Some are also saying that God is teaching us how to be a blessing to others by sharing our resources to the survivors.

Fourth, God is testing us. Our faith in God is being tested by this calamity. Should we cling on to Him or should we put our trust on icons or other gods.

Fifth, God liberated the dead from the suffering of this world and brought them to a better place. Some are being comforted by this explanation.

All the responses that we put forth have one thing in common – we are assuming that God is the cause of our suffering and we are trying to find answers why God made us suffer. In a sense, we are defending God.
Harold Kushner put forward another answer. He wrote “Maybe God does not cause our suffering. Maybe it happens for some reason other than the will of God.” He further states that Psalm 121:1-2 does not say that “My pain comes from the Lord” or “My tragedy comes from the Lord.” The Psalmist is telling us, “My help comes from the Lord.”

I do not pretend to answer in behalf of God. I am clinging to my faith and I am praying that God will help us as we face this tragedy.

Could it be that we are asking the wrong question when we ask “How could God let this happen?”

May God bless us all!

Sincerely,

Rev. Francis Neil G. Jaldano-on