

My
“Sendong”
Story

By: Segundina T. Valenzona

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My “Sendong” Story

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My “Sendong” Story

Written by the Same Author

Visions: More Witness For Christ

Beyond The Glorious Voice

“Thy Kingdom Come” In Earth

The Promise Of Eternal

The Covenant of Peace

The Wisdom of God

Textbook In Biblical Studies

The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord &

The Good News About the Kingdom

All About Love, Faith, & Hope

Tracts:

The Trumpet of A Watchman

The Lord’s Invitation: “Come Unto Me”

The Gift of Love & Eternal Life

Acknowledgement

I would like to sincerely acknowledge the understanding and kindness of all people around me whenever I am busy doing and accomplishing my mission. Special acknowledgement goes particularly to my husband, Elder Supernico Y. Valenzona, Jr.; our children Gibson Jun T. Valenzona, DTE January Gay T. Valenzona, Ph.D. Vernie Joy T. Valenzona, B.Music Ruth Love Valenzona-Russell, DM and her husband Jason Russell. My grandchildren Andrew David V. Russell and his sister Sophia Rebecca V. Russell.

May God our Father and Savior bless you always and grant you the noble desires of your hearts.

A very special acknowledgement is heartily rendered to the Almighty Father for His unfailing love and wonderful blessings upon me, my family, and the Truth Seekers Assemblies & Ministries through His Son Yahshua the Messiah and the Holy Spirit.

For all my achievements, victories and success dear God, to you alone be the highest honor and glory now and forever. HalleluYah!

Dedication

This book is lovingly dedicated

To

All the “Sendang” Victims

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Introduction

This book, My “Sendong” Story is first and foremost a documentary of our experiences at the time the “Sendong” storm and flood violently visited our cities, Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City, Philippines.

It is gladly written by the author in the hope that peoples around the world would glean from it some important lessons in life. The book is also a testimony of the love, mercy, power and greatness of the heavenly Father Yahweh, His Son Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) and, the Holy Spirit. A revelation of God’s power, great goodness, and tender-mercies, and miraculous intervention for the good of His beloved people.

It is also purposely written to give thanks to whom thank is due. To thank the peoples near and far whose thoughtfulness and kindness made things easier for the afflicted, distressed, and bereaved families. To thank especially our Father and Savior – the Creator, the Source, the Giver, the Sustainer of life and of all good things, who continuously show His constant love to His people.

Quotations

“My people, I have always loved you, so I continue to show you my constant love.... I will rebuild you, and you will take up tambourines and dance joyfully.... You will plant vineyards on the hills, and those who plant them will eat what the vineyards produce” (Jeremiah 31: 3-5).

“My people, I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for. Then you will call to me. You will come to me and pray to me, and I will answer you. You will seek me, and you will find me because you will seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29: 11-13).



Segundina T. Valenzona

Let Me Tell The Story

To the Philippines and Filipinos, especially to the Kagay-anons and Iliganons (people in Cagayan de Oro City & Iligan City) December 2011 was truly an unforgettable Christmas Season. A season of assorted emotions! While some were crying, sobbing, and mourning, others were truly thankful and happy because they have escaped the tragedy. Some others were tired, weak, and empty, others were shocked and afraid. The widows, widowers, and orphans were at a loss what to do and where to go.

During the second week, my husband and I were busy shopping and buying for January's and Joy's needs in their school Christmas celebration, particularly, for their own class. Dr. January Gay T. Valenzona being a Teacher-Adviser in High School class and Miss Vernie Joy T. Valenzona a Teacher-Adviser in Grade VI class.

From shopping and grocery buying, I was busy wrapping some gifts. Then comes the School's Christmas Day celebration December

16, 2011. Very early morning, we all woke up to prepare. Dr. Gibson Jun T. Valenzona, my son, woke up to cook the Sotanghon (pancit) and had it ready to be delivered to the schools of January and Joy together with the cupcakes, sandwiches, and juice.

December 16, 2011 was Friday and the day was not so bright as usual, I mean, it was not a sunny day. The weather forecast reporter has warned the night before that “Sendong” storm was coming. But it seemed nobody took the warning seriously as everybody was excited, happy, and busy for the Christmas celebration. Besides, there had been warnings of coming storms in the past years but it never did us some serious troubles.

When everything was ready, my husband and I loaded the food to our car with the gifts I prepared. We first went to the Cagayan de Oro City Division Superintendent’s Office, Department of Education to give to Dr. Myrna Motoomull the gift of books (Textbook In Biblical Studies and Beyond the Glorious Voice) I prepared for her. Then we proceeded to the West City Central

School for Joy. Vernie Joy gave me few minutes to give a Christmas Message to her pupils/students so my husband and I gladly joined their very meaningful and joyful class party.

The celebration was simple but amazingly joyful and meaningful. In our place Public Schools have been perceived or presumed the school for the less fortunate families, hence, I thought there would be a need for my family to prepare some foods and gifts for the celebration. I really had not much idea about it yet since this school year is January's and Joy's first year of teaching in Public School. January Gay had been a teacher and principal for several years but, in Private (Mission) School while Vernie Joy had been with me in the Truth Seekers Assemblies & Ministries, Inc. as our Pianist, and to compose hymns. To both, January and Joy school year 2011-2012 is their first year in Public School.

However, contrary to what I had in mind, the celebration was really amazing because the abundance that I saw was far beyond what I could ever think. The

abundance of food, drink, gifts; the abundance of joy was overflowing. To me, it had a very deep meaning; it showed the abundance of the Filipinos love for our Lord and Savior as well as the abundance of the Filipinos love for one another. Looking at the teachers and the students with the support of their parents diligently working together for the benefit and happiness of all, was really very touching. The scenery I have witnessed was to me the very example of what God our Father in heaven promised us: *“Not one of your people will be poor if you obey me and carefully observe everything that I have commanded you”* (Deuteronomy 15: 4). *“Love God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength. Love your neighbour as you love yourself”* (Matthew 22: 37 & 39). The beautiful scenery of that celebration made me ponder and say “everybody was rich, not one was poor.” How Marvelous!

When the class party was ended, it was noon already. While Joy’s pupils/students loaded back to our car some empty containers and gifts, I had a brief and precious chat with Joy’s co-teachers. Praise God! Their faces were

full of joy knowing all their children-students are happy. What an invaluable and priceless joy!

When my husband and I arrived home, I rested for awhile and then got everything ready for our Special Evening Praise and Prayer as it is the beginning of the Sabbath Day. Just when January, Joy, and Love their older sister were back home from school, we gladly assembled to Worship our Father in heaven. Before our Worship ended, the heavy rain started but it did not bother us until we were through and Love with her husband Jason had to go home while the kids Andrew and Sophia stayed with us as usual.

It was a blessed day and evening for us. We had plenty of foods in the refrigerator such as: cake, fruit salad, Macaroni salad, chocolate candies, fried chicken, etc. some of it were given by friends and students. When Love & Jason left, I told them that they can bring some foods but since it was raining hard and their hands were occupied with jackets and umbrella, they did not. Anyway, I thought, we

would gather again the following morning for Worship and meal Fellowship.

Our Evening Praise & Prayer was finished at eight o'clock and except for Love and Jason, the whole family had their supper together. After supper, as usual, we settled in our respective room for the night's sleep. While sleeping, I knew and I think everybody was aware that it continuously rain plus the seemingly hard wind blowing. But because we were all very tired during the day, our concern for the rain and wind was overtaken by our need to sleep and rest.

Like a thief in the night, "Sendong" took us by surprise. Our place was suddenly and heavily flooded while we were asleep. The great flood entered our house as quickly as the wind blows. The kids and their aunties who lay together on the floor was a wonderful blessing to the whole family that night. Since they were on the floor, they immediately felt the water getting inside our house. The younger kid, Sophia even said: "Wehweh Manong." Meaning, older brother is urinating. At that very moment everybody except for

Gibson who slept in the upper room was aroused and moving fast for safety but the water was much faster, great, and strong. I called Gibson as loud as I could to wake him up and help us. January picked up Andrew who was very sleepy, ordered Joy to carry Sophia because Joy was in deep sleep and did not know what was really happening. Carrying Sophia, Joy even attempted to go to the door outside but January shouted, "go up, go up." January and Joy with the two kids and I quickly went up but the water was already up to our waist.

Gibson was awakened by the unusual noise and rose up without knowing what really happened especially that it was very dark. We met on the stairs while he hastily went down, only to be stunned by the great waters. The water that wanted to shallow and devour everyone. Gibson tried to save some things so I shouted: my bag, my bag if possible. Gibson grabbed my two bags of important things and papers which was somewhere on top together with a Bible.

The Crucial Moments

January, Joy, Andrew, Sophia, and I were already in the upper room or attic. I knelt embracing the two kids while January and Joy took the bags that Gibson tossed up. I was not sure where Daddy was, whether in front of the house or in the kitchen. I told Gibson to call for Daddy very loud so that we will be together without delay. When I saw Daddy and Gibson coming up, I sat down on the floor. It was then I realized that the water was about to enter the upper room. I looked through a small opening, the great waters was beside us, just an inch below the floor. At this time the water was already twelve feet high. I shouted: open the roof, open the roof. Gibson kick hard the roof while Dad tried to help. They found something-sort of iron rod which Gibson used to keep beside him while sleeping when he was just a boy and it helped a lot. When a portion of the roof was opened, I looked outside with Daddy standing beside me. Oh! What a terrible sight. Our ground was already like an ocean especially that there is a good open space around us. Three lots vacant on one

side of our house, nine hundred square meters and three lots vacant across our house also around nine hundred square meters. The sight of the water was truly overwhelming for people who do not know how to swim. More so, because it was not plain water but with great current, thick mud, and things forcibly carried by the water like logs, trucks, cars, broken houses and fence, etc. It was such a shocking and frightening night.

While standing on the floor of our upper room looking through the roof opening, I lifted up my hands in prayer to the Almighty Father Yahweh in the Name of His Son Yahshua the Messiah, and the Holy Spirit. I prayed: *Our Father in heaven Yahweh, dear Yahshua the Messiah, and Holy Spirit. You are holy and eternal, You are holy and faithful, You are glorious and wonderful, You are mighty and powerful, You are all-powerful, You are Supreme overall and with You nothing is impossible. You are righteous and just, You are so good, so loving and merciful. Father, look upon us with mercy I pray.*

Then, I rebuked the great waters saying:
In the mighty and holy Name of the Father Yahweh, His Son Yahshua the Messiah, and the Holy Spirit, I rebuke you great waters or flood. I take dominion over you and I command you to go to the deep of the land and to the sea. This is not your place, you go to where you should be, that is, in the deep of the land and to the sea, in the mighty and holy Name of the Lamb Yahshua the Messiah, my Lord, my Savior, my King. HalleluYah!

In my prayer I also declared that we will have sunny days or weeks ahead in the name of Yahshua the Messiah.

The Precious and Glorious Miracle

Immediately after my prayer, I sat down because the wind was blowing hard and I was a bit dizzy but Daddy, my husband remained standing looking outside. By and by Daddy shouted: *“Mommy, nag miracle si Lord; nag miracle si Lord.”* Meaning, the Lord has done a miracle. Indeed, the Lord has done a miracle because the great waters miraculously went down. Daddy said: “Around half of the height of the water was reduced abruptly and then it slowly went down.”

The loving and merciful Father in heaven Yahweh, His Son Yahshua the Messiah, and the Holy Spirit graciously answered my prayers. According to His loving-kindness and tender mercies, He saved us, He delivered us from death by His unsearchable wisdom, might, and power.

Praise, honor, glory, and thanksgiving be to the Almighty Father, His Son Yahshua the Messiah, and the Holy Spirit now and forever!

The Silence and The Waiting

While the water was gradually going down, we waited quietly for the new day. Quietly because everyone I believe had a mixed emotion. Nobody knew exactly what to say or how to express his/her feelings. But I am sure we were all quietly thankful to God our Father and Savior.

When morning came, O what a miracle the Lord has done. We saw that the mark of the water on the wall was just an inch below the floor of our upper room. Also, what a wonderful new day! In spite of the killer storm that swept the cities at night, we had a bright sunny day as I prayed. In fact, right after the storm, we were blessed with sunshine everyday which lasted for weeks. It would have been more difficult for everybody if the rain continued. Except for the water in the slope near our house our garden or ground was dry. Our plants/flowers in the pots were miraculously kept intact in their places before the flood. However, like the people, our plants looked extremely distressed but amazingly, not

one of them was missing. Glory to God our Father and Savior now and forever!

A Song of Praise & Thanksgiving

Listen, earth and sky, and all that dwell therein.

*Yahweh Almighty who revealed Himself to the
world*

*Through His Son Yahshua the Messiah is holy,
glorious, and awesome in greatness and
power.*

Yet, He is faithful, loving, and merciful.

In His mercy, He hears the cry of the needy.

*He is ever ready to show His love and
mercy; ready to rescue those who live in
reverence for Him and put their trust and
hope in Him.*

He never ignore the prayers of those who love Him.

*In my distress, I called out to the Lord God
Almighty and He heard me.*

*I rebuked the great waters and the "Sendong"
waters trembled in fear and obeyed me.*

*The "Sendong" storm and flood was
overwhelming and death surrounded me and
my family*

*But the Name of Yahweh and Yahshua the
Messiah are so mighty; far mightier than the
greatest flood and the raging waves of the sea.*

*In prayer I used the Name of Yahweh Almighty
and Yahshua the Messiah against our deadly
enemy, and the enemy's power was broken
and shattered quickly.*

*The raging great waters calmed down and
quietly drifted away.*

*I give you thanks and praise dear Lord God
Almighty.*

*I praise you and thank you for your great
goodness and faithfulness to me.*

*I praise you and thank you for your kindness
and tender-mercies to my family.*

*I praise you and thank you for giving us victory
over everything and everyone who wants to
harm me and my family.*

*I praise you and thank you that you are always
there for me; ready to strike down anyone
who wants to destroy my family.*

*I praise you and thank you that you have
ordered the arrest of anyone who tries to
harm me. You said: "I have given order to
arrest anyone who tries to harm you."*

In your mercy, you make those who want to kill me and my family blind, deaf, weak, and powerless. So weak and powerless that they will never rise to harm anyone unjustly.

I praise you and thank you that your holy hand is ever ready to protect me and bless me.

For all the great and wonderful things you have done to me and to my family, I will constantly praise you dear God.

I sing praises to you for your loving-kindness, and tender-mercies, and faithfulness.

I love you Lord, I adore you, I praise you.

I gladly give myself to you. For, I know, no praise and thank is great enough for you.

Accept myself as an offering to you dear Lord, God Almighty; be pleased to use me and show your holiness and greatness through me for your honor and glory.

*Sing praises to Yahweh Almighty and Yahshua
the Messiah all peoples around the world.*

*Let us sing praises to the Almighty all living
creatures,*

Let us Sing praises to His glorious name.

Hear me all nations all over the world

*Let us give thanks to Yahweh Almighty and
Yahshua the Messiah.*

*Give thanks and sing praises for His great
goodness and tender-mercies.*

Hear me all you islands around the world

*Let us give thanks and sing praises; His love for
us is strong, steadfast, and eternal.*

*Hear me all you that is in the depth of the ocean,
sea, and sea creatures*

*Let us give thanks and sing praises to Yahweh
Almighty who said: "Call unto me and I*

will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."

Hear me all you mountains, hills, valleys, and all that is in the sky

Let us give thanks and sing praises to the Lord, God Almighty because He is merciful and faithful. His words endure forever and ever.

"Grass withers, flowers fade but His words endure forever."

Give thanks and sing praises to Yahweh Almighty, Yahshua the Messiah, and the Holy Spirit all peoples great and small because "Heaven and earth may pass away but His words last forever; His promises are as good as done already.

In Praise of Our Great Shepherd

*Yahweh Almighty through Yahshua the Messiah is
our Great and Mighty Shepherd.*

He is wonderful! He takes good care of us all.

*He blesses us with every good thing – the sun to
give light during the day, the moonlight
during the night, and the twinkling stars to
give lasting delight.*

*He fills the world with wonderful treasures for
everyone to live with joy and be thankful.*

*He lovingly cares for all His creatures, and His eyes
and mercy are upon them who gained His
favor.*

*He knows those who love Him and honor Him; He
is ever ready to rescue them.*

He is our wonderful and mighty keeper

He keeps us under His protective covering.

*He protects and defends those who belong to Him
by making their enemies who want to
destroy them blind, deaf, weak, and
powerless.*

*He says: "You are mine and I love you. A curse is
on them who are plotting to kill you."*

*Our great Shepherd knows everything and nothing
is kept from Him*

*He is righteous and just that He rewards everyone
according to what he has done; according to
the thoughts and intents of his heart.*

*Nothing is too small or too big for our Lord and
Shepherd to care for*

He is always just, kind, and merciful.

*He never leaves the poor and humble hopeless and
helpless*

He never turns down anyone who trust Him.

*He is always merciful to all who are humble and
faithful; His tender-mercies constantly
surround them all.*

*The Lord our great Shepherd is loving, merciful,
just, and faithful.*

He is great and wonderful beyond measure!

Thanksgiving For God's Mercy

Rejoice and give thanks all ye peoples of the land

*Rejoice all ye that live on earth under the wide,
blue, and beautiful sky.*

Rejoice and give thanks all ye creatures

Rejoice and give thanks for God's mercy to us all.

He hears and answers our prayers when we call

*He looks on us with love and pity because He is
merciful.*

He quickly bends to lift us when we fall

*He is ever ready to show His mercy and care when
we are down and sorrowful.*

I thank you Lord for your great salvation

*I praise you and thank you for your unfailing love
to us your children.*

I love you Lord, I adore you, I praise you

I bless you and your holy Name forever!

*I thank you Lord that you are always there as our
everlasting light*

*I praise you and thank you that "you will never
leave us nor forsake us."*

*I praise you and thank you for all the great and
wonderful things you have done to us.*

*Let us give thanks to God whose love for us is
beyond measure*

*Let us announce the Good News about the coming
of our Lord and Savior.*

He will come no longer to deal with sin

*He will come to reward all who patiently wait for
Him.*

Let us make known his coming very, very soon

*He will suddenly come and appear like an
unexpected storm.*

*He will come in His glory to separate the righteous
from the unrighteous "as a shepherd separates
the sheep from the goat."*

*He will announce our victory over the world
together with Him*

*And declare that our griefs, sorrows, and sadness
are now gone forever more.*

Our House

Our house is around two kilometers away from the river. But I think when the great waters from the mountain reached a certain place beyond our house, the water found its way back and around in a low area unto the slope near our house hitting us so badly.

Although our house was full of mud, I thank God not a part of it was broken. Even the hut for our junks which was already due for reconstruction because it was already bending, was still standing as it was. It's really a miracle. My son-in-law Jason was greatly surprised, and people passing by later stretched their neck to see what makes it stand the test of "Sendong" flood.

The mud in our house was as thick as four inches but in the kitchen, it was thicker because our kitchen is two steps lower. The plywood walls were damaged and needed repair. All our things from the smallest to the biggest rambled. Books and hymnals were buried in the mud. The Piano was moved a bit and leaning on the wall. The office computer

was hanging because Gibson tied it behind. The stereo and its parts were scattered. The television, refrigerator, cabinet, cupboard, electric fans, furnitures and all others rambled. Our clothes in the closet all fell to the floor and were soaked in deep mud. We had no dry clothes and though we were wet, we could not change. We could hardly move and for a moment we were at a loss what to do first and where to start doing. We could hardly call somebody because except for January's cell phone which also needed recharging, all others were not usable. It was really difficult but praise God, we had manage to keep on thanking Him in spite of everything. Knowing that many people were in serious troubles and in anguish because of the loss of their loved ones, ours was relatively insignificant.

The Precious Help

Genuine love was overflowing and the spirit of kindness and helpfulness was vivid and very inspiring. Everyone who had the means was eager to help and they did very well.

The first blessing that came to us was the gallons of water. Thanks to Eduel, Vincent and Elena, January's former co-teachers. Then came Memory and some friends bringing bundles of assorted clothes and slippers in behalf of the rest of January's former co-teachers. Martha and her sister also brought clothes and a bag all the way from Bukidnon. Joy's friends were also very kind, however, most of Joy's pupils and some co-teachers were also victim. In fact, Joy's co-teachers in WCCS Grade VI, unfortunately lost (drowned in the house) her three children. Another co-teacher lost (carried away and found dead) her younger sister. RM, Joy's friend abroad was so concerned and he quickly sent his help. Tonie and Aya, Joy's piano students made effort to personally see us in spite of the inconvenience. Gibson's friends and former classmates were

kind, thoughtful and generous. Hilbert, Jonathan, Racquel, and Michelle who is in Canada and many others called Gibson and assured him of some help. Crisanto and Eleamar visited Gibson personally to see what they can do to ease any pain. Obing, our neighbor came at the right time bringing a box of assorted things like tooth brush, tooth paste, soap, and malong, labelled from the United Nations; brethren and co-ministers' prayers were abounding. Rev. Diosdado Solomon made effort to see us as early as possible in spite of the mud on the road. Rev. Jose Prochina who is already residing in USA together with his family, and who used to call us every Christmas still called us but incidentally, he was in Cagayan de Oro and was also a victim of the "Sendong" flood. Franco and Alily our former neighbor who are now residing in Manila, visited us and gladly extended some help. Immanuel Mission International School where January had worked as Principal for several years, delivered on time one sack of rice. HalleluYah!

Dr. Ruth Love Valenzona-Russell, the oldest of my children who is already married

and has a family of her own also received many blessings. And, surely, I cannot afford to miss the joy of telling everyone that we gladly shared the many things that Love received from her faculty and staff at Xavier University. Our sincere thanks to all in the School of Business Management, X.U. and, of course, Xavier University's assistance to Love and to the others through the effort of X.U. President Fr. Roberto Yap, S.J. and staff.

I really thank God that although our situation was discouraging, people's love and help was very inspiring and edifying.

More On Our House

It is comparatively small and it is made of mixed materials, partly cement and partly wood. The porch and the kitchen which are ground level are cemented but the main part of our house is wood.

Gibson, January, and Daddy went down first while I stayed in the upper room together with Joy who was to watch the kids Andrew and Sophia. Gibson chose one room and together they cleaned it up so that we can all come down, have a place to stay and eat while they will continue cleaning. To most victims, the cleaning was really difficult because there was no water supply from COWD for a month. Some neighbors left their houses and had them cleaned when the water supply was restored.

Praise God! In our case, it was a little better. In the morning after that terrible and horrible night, we have started cleaning our house because there was a three to four feet deep hole under our house which we purposely made for Daddy or Gibson to be able to go down and check the condition of the

wood under our floor. Fortunately, the hole rightly served as a well for us to have water for washing. The water was clear and good enough for washing. It was really a blessing. HalleluYah!

The clearing, cleaning, and repair of our house took us six months because we did not hire any workers. We were the only ones who did the work. Dr. Gibson Jun T. Valenzona handled the hard and heavy work including carpentry and electrical wiring together with Daddy. It was really a kind of experience for all of us. Does it sound and appear weird? Or, perhaps you wonder why we did not get helpers? I may not be able to tell the details but right now this is what I can say. Our house looks so ordinary but it is not just a house for our family, it is also a house of praise and prayer to God Almighty. What is sacred must be treated sacredly.

Our Worship, Praise & Prayer

God our Father in heaven Yahweh is of course, our great Creator. The source, the giver, the sustainer of our life. While His Son Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) is our Lord, and Savior from sin, from the power of sin, from death and eternal destruction. The Holy Spirit is the teacher of truth who guides all the believers and followers of Yahshua the Messiah to the path of righteousness. Help and inspire the believers to do the Father's will.

There is none like our Father in heaven, and Savior. He is holy and eternal, He is holy and faithful. He is glorious, mighty, and powerful. He is the omnipotent, Omniscient, omnipresent. He is all-powerful and He is supreme over all. There is none like our Father & Savior. None like Him in righteousness and holiness, none like Him in wisdom, greatness, and power. There is none like Him in goodness and faithfulness, none like Him in loving-kindness, and tender-mercies.

Hence, our Father in heaven alone is worthy of our worship, worthy of the best

praises and thanksgiving, worthy of the highest honor and glory now and forever. He is "To be worshiped in spirit and in truth". "To be worshiped in the beauty of holiness." For, the holy scripture declares: *God is Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth*" (John 4: 24). "*Be ye holy; for I am holy*" (I Peter 1: 16).

Prophet Jeremiah says: "*I am a God who is everywhere and not in one place only. No one can hide where I cannot see them. Do you not know that I am everywhere in heaven and on earth?*" (Jeremiah 23: 23-24).

In the book of Revelation, St. John declared that in a vision he had seen an angel flying in the air, with an eternal message of Good News to announce to the peoples of the earth, to every race, tribe, language, and nation. He said in a loud voice: "*Honor God and praise his greatness!... Worship him who made heaven, earth, sea, and the springs of waters.*" (Revelation 14: 7).

The Psalmist wrote: "*Let the giving of thanks be your sacrifices to God and give the Almighty all that you have promised.*"

“Giving of thanks is the sacrifice that honors me, and I will surely save all who obey me.”

Psalm 50: 14 & 23

Apostle Paul also wrote and admonished the Thessalonians saying, *“Rejoice ever more. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks to the Almighty Father in everything.”* (I Thessalonians 5: 16-18).

Our love and devotion to our Father & Savior is certainly express in our way of life. The life that upholds truth, justice, and righteousness, humility, sincerity, kindness and mercy. And, of course, through our worship, our praise and thanksgiving which are the explicit expression of our faith in our Father in heaven and His Son our Lord, our Savior and King.

According to the teaching, then, of our Father and Savior through the prophets and apostles, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, our family worships God our Father in heaven regularly. And, we gladly thank our Father & Savior for the wonderful privilege He has given us. It has been our practice therefore to assemble at home for Praise and Prayer every

night and Worship on Sabbath Day. But, when I first saw our house after the “Sendong” storm and flood, I have thought to myself, Oh! How can we worship God in this place again? It looked impossible. But, truly my brethren, “With God nothing is impossible; what is impossible to man is possible with God” (Luke 1: 37).

By God’s grace, we were able to clear and clean up our Worship Center in few days so that in the Sabbath following the “Sendong” night we were already able to gather together for worship, praise and prayer as usual. We never missed a Sabbath Day Worship and for me, though tired, it was the most meaningful worship I ever had. Most meaningful because it was also our best opportunity to show to our Father and Savior that we truly love Him with all our hearts and we are determined to worship Him no matter what the circumstances may be.

Just try to imagine my brethren that at this time we had no chairs, no table, but gladly, with one old Bible that Gibson had saved. Not a musical instrument, our three violins: one for

Joy, one for Andrew, another one left to us by Donna, Joy's friend who is in England; the guitar although none of us plays a guitar, Andrew & Sophia's keyboard, the piano were all broken or damaged. Not even a curtain to separate us from the rambling things around us. It was truly difficult; there seemed to be no way. But we strongly refused to let all these hinder or stop us to assemble and worship God as we used to do. Instead, we made God our priority and determined to do what we believe should be done. Really, with this new and challenging experience of mine, my brethren, I can now boldly say: When we are willing and determined "All things are possible with God." HalleluYah!

Hence, let us be willing to sacrifice my brethren, confident, and determined to do what is good and right. Our loving Father will honor our noble desire and effort, and He will help us. Let us determine to turn every adverse condition into great blessing to many people, if not to all, for the honor and glory of our Father and Savior.

Come, Let Us Bow Down

*Come, let us bow down and worship
Yahweh Almighty in the Name of
His Son our Savior Yahshua the Messiah,
And the Holy Spirit.*

Let us bow down to honor Him.

*Let us magnify His holy Name
And declare His mighty power
That delivered us from death and raging storm.*

*Let all whom He saved great and small
shout for joy,*

Let us praise Him forever and ever.

*Let all who have ears hear the
Good News that God is good and God is great
His righteousness is unsearchable.*

*Let us proclaim to all nations God's
wonderful acts*

Let us make known that He rescued us

And the enemies trembled at the glorious sight.

*Who would ever stand against the Almighty?
The fools may, but they will all perish
and gone forever.*

*Who would ever question our position as
children of the Almighty?
The proud and arrogant may, but they will be
put to shame and disgraced eternally.*

*Who would ever challenge our right and
authority as children of the Almighty?
The stupid may, but they will be blown away
like chaff tossed in the air
While the "righteous shall live by his faith
And dwell in the land forever."*

*Come, Let Us Worship The Lord**

*Come, all ye peoples of the land
Brown, black, yellow, and white
Come, and worship the Lord.*

*Let all that have life praise the Lord
Praise the Lord with songs of victory and joy!*

*The heavens and the earth are the Lord's
Come ye great and small, young and old,
Let us worship and glorify the Lord
Who is the "Alpha and the Omega"
The beginning and the ending...the Almighty!*

*Worship the Lord not only with
your silver and gold
For all the precious stones are His!
Worship Him, not only with things
your eyes can see –
But worship Him with all your heart,
mind, and strength;
Worship Him in spirit and in truth!*

*Bless the Lord all ye peoples of the land
Bless His holy, mighty, and excellent Name,
Bless Him with all your being –
body, soul, & spirit!
Offer to Him the best of your life
Offer to Him your very self.*

Our Car

Thank God our Father in heaven for our car. Our car is an old Mazda 323 red car. It is old but with some knowledge and skills in automotive God has blessed Daddy and Gibson the car was well kept and it had no problem. It had been serving us very well. But because of the "Sendong" flood the car was forcibly and abruptly changed. The beautiful shining red color, the appearance and its performance have greatly changed. It is especially so because our priority was to clean the house first. The car was much later to the point that my seven-year-old grandson Andrew who loves the car was the very first person to wash it. Andrew kept asking his uncle and Lolo (grandfather) to attend to the car but since they could not, Andrew tried to do the work himself. Ha....ha....ha.

The car was full of mud and wet inside until I think after a month that Daddy has attended to it. Praise God for our thoughtful and kind neighbour Loloy Uy who gladly offered his Power Spray to Daddy for the cleaning of our car. We previously thought of

having the car taken cared of by a car shop but knowing that the shops are full, we decided to keep it.

When Daddy and Gibson have cleaned and fixed the car the best they could, we started using it when I went to the grocery. On the way to the grocery, sadly, we found ourselves stuck in the middle of the road, causing a little mess and discomfort. Thank God, people around were very kind and eager to push the car at the side. Later, we had our car towed back home.

This similar incident reminded me of the time when I drove our Volk Wagen (Beetle) years ago with my children going to school. In the middle of the street with heavy traffic, the car ran out of gasoline. I felt so embarrassed and really sorry for the mess I have caused that I wanted to cry but the kindness of people around including the Police and Traffic Officer was truly a great comfort and relief. I really thank God that the harshness of life is always tempered by the goodness and kindness of people around.

“Sendong’s” Effects

“Sendong” was really terrible and horrible. It continued to kill people even after December 16, 2011.

Emotional and Psychological Effect

Many of the victims went through deep emotional and psychological problems. Aside from the fact that they were in difficult condition in the evacuation center, they could hardly eat and sleep. Instead of sleeping, what is heard from time to time is crying and sobbing. They were in anguish beyond measure; no one could really imagine how painful was the pain of abruptly losing a loved one in a brief moment. A mother losing her child and husband, another mother losing two or three of her children at one time. A husband losing his wife and children, a wife losing her husband, with some of her children, and parents. Children losing their parents, grandparents, uncles, aunties, and cousins. A brother losing his sister and other relatives. A sister losing her brother and sister-in-law. O’

what a pain, what an anguish! It is really beyond compare. No one really knows how painful was pain to them at that moment.

Everybody knows that in spite of the loving and sincere efforts of people from different sectors both national and international - to help, to comfort, to assist, to assure them of a much better future, nothing of these really count without the loved ones to share with. To the victims, there is nothing that can fill up their emptiness and satisfy their longing for their loved ones. Nevertheless, let us always remember that apostle Paul said and wrote to the Romans: *"I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."* *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8: 18 & 28). So, then, let us firmly hope that those who departed were called earlier for a noble purpose and those of us who stay, we stay or should stay for God's holy purpose here on earth.

Inevitably and sadly, because of the gnawing pain the victims have been suffering, news report said: “Some of them lost the necessary mental and emotional balance, and a few committed suicide.” May God our Father in heaven be merciful to them.

I further hope that the “Sendong” attack would always remind the living, I mean remind us who are alive that while there is time, we should sincerely love one another, take good care of one another, support and build up each other as a family and as Filipino people. We should do our duties and responsibilities towards one another, towards our country and the whole world humbly, sincerely, and properly. Above all, we should live a life that honors God our Father and Savior.

*Do you Feel God is Far Away?**

My dear brethren, do you feel that God is far away although you follow God's will not your own desires? Are you tempted to think that doing God's will is useless? Do you feel that God does not hear your prayers; God does not care about you, He is even against you?

Do not be sad; do not be terrified!

The fact that you truly love God; you worship Him in spirit and in truth, and you do His will, God is certainly not against you. Remember, many of our brethren and ancestors in the faith have felt and suffered the way you do. You are not alone!

Our ancestor Job had said:

"I complain against God, I cannot keep from groaning. How I wish I knew where to find Him and knew where to go where He is. I would state my case before Him and present all the arguments in my favor. I want

to know what He would say and how He would answer me....”

“I have searched in the east, but God is not there; I have not found Him when I searched in the west.... Yet God knows every step I take; if He tests me, He will find me pure... Because I always do what God commands; I follow His will not my own desires.”

My dear ones, imagine how Job suffered and groaned in pain. Think what grief and anguish Job had in his mind. Job sincerely worshiped and served God Almighty, but in a wink all that God had blessed him were destroyed and gone. Job lost all his children and the house where his children gathered when a raging storm hit them and killed them all. Job also lost all his property – his thousands of sheep, cattle, donkeys, camels, and servants. Practically, Job lost everyone and everything precious to him. In addition, Job was terribly

sick physically; he had boils all over his body. Furthermore, his friends were not kind and sympathetic to him. They thought and presumed Job was guilty of sin and because of his sins God severely punished him.

Job's friends said:

"Have you confessed your sins to God and promised not to sin again?"

"Have you asked God to show you your faults, and have you agreed to stop doing evil?"

"Job, you know that from ancient time no wicked man will be happy for long. Everything he has saved is destroyed by fire not lit by human hands burns him and his family. Heaven reveals this man's sin, and the earth gives testimony against him."

Job answered:

“How could I lie and say I am wrong? I am fatally wounded, but I am sinless.”

“You came to comfort me, but your comfort is torment.”

My dear brethren, Job’s pain and suffering was beyond measure. But, did Job give up his faith in God because of grief and anguish? Absolutely No. He kept the faith and waited for better times, Job said: “I will wait for better times. Wait till this time of trouble is ended.”

Surely, Job did not suffer for nothing; Job did not wait in vain. He won the victory over satan – the devil by simply waiting patiently. He won the victory for God’s honor and glory because he defeated satan who challenged God to allow him to test Job’s faith in God – Yahweh Almighty and see if he would remain faithful. HalleluYah! Job had the faith that is strong,

unmovable, and steadfast no matter what the circumstance. The faith that prophet Isaiah also declares: "Faith that is firm is also patient"(Isaiah 28: 16).

Prophet Jeremiah:

Prophet Jeremiah, the weeping prophet complained to God Almighty saying: "Lord everyone makes fun of me; they laugh at me all day long. I am ridiculed and scorned all the time because I proclaim your message. But when I say, 'I will forget the Lord and no longer speak in his name,' then your message is like a fire burning deep within me. I try my best to hold it in, but can no longer keep it back.... Curse the day I was born! Forget the day my mother gave birth....why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow, to end my life in disgrace?"

Certainly, everyone knows that the words of Prophet Jeremiah are words of pain and anguish. But, did Jeremiah suffer in vain? Absolutely No. Through the life of Jeremiah;

through his sufferings the whole world is given the opportunity to hear God and to know that God cares for His people and He is not willing that any man would perish but that all men should come to repentance and live with him forever. Above all, Prophet Jeremiah brought honor and glory to God our Father in heaven forever and ever!

Effects on Health

The Leptospirosis

Before the “Sendong” storm and flood, I think leptospirosis is strange to the people in Cagayan de Oro City. I have never heard of a neighbor or a friend hospitalized or died due to leptospirosis. But, when “Sendong” came, my own and only son Gibson who was very active in restoring our home and who had a scratch on one of his toes was attacked by leptospirosis. The bacteria is a kind of traitor because although the victim has fever, after that moment, the victim is all right. He is strong again and can go on the daily work, but by and by the sickness catches the victim by surprise. It suddenly strikes mercilessly.

Praise God! While Gibson had a slight fever and Daddy gave him a medicine which we hoped would fully cure him, our loving and merciful Father in heaven spoke to me in a night vision telling me to bring Gibson to a physician on time. Thanks to God our Father and Savior, Gibson was kept safe. Unfortunately, many others did not make it.

Some of my friends lost their loved ones because of leptospirosis. One friend of mine who is a public school teacher, tragically lost her twenty nine years old son. The attack caught them by surprise because according to her, even the hospital physician thought it was just an ordinary fever. Her son died on December 31, 2011. Oh! What a sad and painful Christmas and New Year.

*Bereaved and Lonely?**

*Take courage and be strong!
Trust in the Lord God Almighty
Who is the Source of all good things.
The Lord is good and compassionate
He looks upon His people with
great compassion.*

*His favor is upon the humble.
He is near to all who call to Him sincerely.
He is always ready to help the needy.*

*Yahweh Almighty our God and Father
Through His Son Yahshua the Messiah
and the Holy Spirit is
omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent.
He is the Lord of the past, the present,
and the future.
He knows you and all that has been
happening with you
He cares for you.
He has beautiful plans for your life
and your future.*

He said:

"I know the plans I have for you, plans for good and not disaster; plans to give you the future that you hope for" (Jeremiah 29: 11).

The Lord God loves you!

Allow Him to comfort you.

Say: Lord touch me and heal me, and I will be healed. Bless me and keep me strong and make me a blessing to others for your honor and glory.

While the Lord is healing you and making you well again

Remember, there's a time or season for everything.

"A time to find and a time to lose."

"A time to be born and a time to die."

"A time for joy and a time for sorrow."

"A time to laugh and a time to cry."

"A time for mourning and a time for dancing."

*Hope for the time when
new, good, beautiful things will be born.
Hope for a wonderful future –
Hope for the time
when you will laugh and dance for joy.
No one who puts his trust and hope in the Lord
God will be disappointed.*

Diarrhea

Many of the victims of “Sendong” had suffered severe diarrhea. Some of them suffered because of bacteria due to unclean water, but mostly, due to tension, anxiety, and indigestion. Daddy, my husband was one of them and he quickly lost some weights.

That night was our schedule for prayer watch. Daddy was with us in the beginning but along the way, he kept going to the comfort room or toilet. We therefore suggested that he would go to bed while we continue our prayer. He did so but he also continued going to the toilet until at dawn we decided to stop and bring Daddy to the hospital. Since our car could not be used yet Gibson went to the nearest Police Station for assistance. Praise God! The Police Officer readily served us.

In the hospital, Daddy was quickly examined very well. Thank God, several results of the examination were negative. However, he was weak and really had to rest.

My Health

Looking at my stature, I am petite and frail. Indeed, I am frail because when I was much younger, I seriously fell twice. During the first, the fall had caused disalignment of my bones in the chest and back. The second fall had caused the pain in my buttocks that I do suffer from time to time. I still remember that this problem was strongly aggravated when I gave birth to my children. In fact, after the birth of my first child I had difficulty standing and walking straight for weeks. Hence, I always treat my body with special care. But, when “Sendong” struck us, it was not so anymore. It was already difficult to keep the usual care of myself.

However, in spite of all that I have said about my health, I find myself very amazing in times of need and emergency. The Lord, God our Father and Savior is truly gracious; His grace is always sufficient. He said: *“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. ‘Most gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me’”* (II Corinthian 12: 9).

Second Corinthians Twelve-nine was the very words of Apostle Paul when he suffered eye illness, and sought the Lord to heal him and the Lord answered: *"My grace is sufficient for thee."* I believe, sometimes God allows a certain body weakness so that we would all recognize that we do things only by the grace of God Almighty. We would always remember that we do things not by our own might but by the power of God Almighty through His Son Yahshua the Messiah, and the Holy Spirit.

In my personal experience God's love and care is really wonderful. I have had some hard times and had to tackle hard works while raising up my children but our loving God and Father never failed to supply my need of strength. Even now that my children are all grown up, I am getting older yet stronger in some ways. HalleluYah! Paradoxically, while some people are in panic, others are fainting, I am in my best in times of emergency. To Yahweh Almighty, Yahshua the Messiah, Holy Spirit be the highest honor and glory!

What Shall I Give Unto The Lord

What shall I give unto the Lord

For all His benefits unto me?

I give you thanks and praise dear Lord

*For your great goodness and tender-mercies
upon me.*

*I give you thanks and praise dear Lord because
of your faithfulness unto me.*

*I give you thanks and praise dear God because
your love for me is eternal and your
faithfulness last forever.*

*In your loving-kindness you renew my strength
day by day*

*In your great goodness you shower me with
wonderful blessings night and day.*

When I am weak, down, and weary

You quickly show me your love and mercy,

You lovingly touch me, heal me, and bless me.

*I love you Lord; I adore you and thank you
You alone are truly my Lord, and there is
none like you.*

*I will sing you songs of praise night and day
I will gladly raise my voice to honor Thee.
I will make known your marvelous
love and mercy*

*To the ends of the earth I will proclaim that
there is none like Thee.*

*To you alone all people big and small must
give glory*

*And, the whole world will declare Thy
everlasting majesty*

*As they will see your goodness, holiness, power
and greatness upon me.*

The Irony

During that time people were near yet so far. Communications were cut off. Relatives and friends who wanted to know our condition could not reach us by land line or cell phones as they used to do. Those who live farther told us later that they had a meeting so that they can decide who would come to us to check. Even friends and relatives around the city could hardly see us because the mud on the way was up to the knee. Besides, in some areas along our road, the authorities prevented the people to go around because of the cadavers that were momentarily laid on the roadside.

Usually, neighbors are the very first people to help in times of emergency, but this time, it was not so. To me, even our neighbors seemed so far away, we were all victims so , all of us could hardly move out of our own ground because of the assorted things that crowd around us. At home for example, we could not open our gate by ourselves because of the debris of a broken house together with some of their things like pail, basin, chair that barred our gate.

Also, I believe, all the victims at that instance were occupied and busy for survival. We needed food and clothes more than anything because we were hungry, thirsty, and wet. I wanted to see everything that happened in the city but I could not. One moment I said, what an irony, the world is seeing us or has seen on screen the condition of our city while we could not. To my surprise my five year old grandchild Sophia answered: "Don't worry Mama, what they see, you have experienced it yourself anyway." Matalino talaga! HalleluYah!

Pondering over the situation, I think it was better for me so that I would not be constantly refreshed of the devastating assault of "Sendong" and the demoralizing condition.

The Broken Pieces At Home

Every couple dreams of a beautiful and happy home. In fact, everyone regardless of economic standing dreams of a happy and successful life. Perhaps, some of us this time were just starting to build the foundation of our dream, maybe some others are on the way towards the top, still others were probably trying to reach the peak but when "Sendong" surprisingly visited the city what was left were pieces of our broken dreams.

These remind me of the teaching of our Lord and Savior which says: *"Why layup treasures here on earth where robbers could steal and moth corrupt? Layup treasures in heaven where no thief can steal and no moth can damage."* *"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."* (Matthew 6: 19-20; 6:33).

The morning following that fateful night, there were countless of pieces before us. But the very piece I first ask Daddy, Gibson, January who went down early, to find were my

eyeglasses. I always put my eyeglasses in my shoulder bag before going to bed and fortunately, Gibson had managed to save my bag but my eyeglasses were not there. How strange! I missed to put my eyeglasses in my bag that night. True, indeed, as some people say: "Things happen when you least expect it." Similarly, our neighbor said, he always see to it that his flash light is ready before going to bed but that night his flash light had no battery.

When I came down the very thing I did was to find the things that we use for worship, and my valuables. The bag which had a little money and where I kept the box of my jewelry which was mostly fancy/fashion. I delicately separated the bills that stick together and dried it on the window so that it will be ready for use. Then I cleaned the jewelry which was soaked in mud together with that of January's and Joy's. The next is to see if I could still save some photos in the album, a remembrance of the many things and occasions that are very important to us like the graduation of my children, and the wedding of Ruth Love. Daddy was also busy attending to the very important papers such as the tittles of our lots,

marriage contract, diploma of the children and etc. Each of us did what we believe was most important.

Knowing that by this time many people were in panic searching for their lost loved ones, others were in deep mourning, I felt that my family was so blessed, blessed beyond measure but at the same time so sad. In truth, I was in deep pain, I was in anguish but I could not do any better than to pray to the Lord, God Almighty. To thank God who can make all things work together for good. To pray that everything that happened no matter how painful, no matter how ugly, God, in His mercy and limitless power would turn it into a blessing for all His people especially to the bereaved families.

At this point, let me share with you a poem I have composed years ago. It is my hope that our loving God would touch His suffering people and comfort their aching hearts through this poem.

*Learning Through Tears & Pain**

*Joy, laughter, crying, sighing and pain
Are the master language of every heart,
Languages – some are welcome, some are not!
To every sensible man joy and laughter
Are highly regarded and desired –
Tears and pain must be avoided and rejected!*

But –

*When to cry and sigh in pain
Really come; Then, Humbly, Let it be...*

*When someone deeply groans in agony,
When people mourn over ones
unfortunate destiny –*

*When a mother grieves over a lost dear child,
When a father loses a precious well-paid job
Then, Humbly, Let it be! Let go and let*

God have His wonderful way!

Trust and obey!!!

When dreams are shattered the world

seems to crumble

Terrestrial bodies, upon you, seem to fall

When weak – your hands and knees

tend to tremble –

When the world seems so dark

The sunlight, your heart cannot feel,

Your eyes and mind cannot see

Lend your ears to Christ who says,

“Have faith in Me.”

This I say, because “All things work

Together for good to those who love God.”

Surely

Learning through tears and pain is

on your way!

The Broken Dreams & Broken Pieces

Normally, people dream of a happy and successful life. Every couple and family regardless of social and economic standing work hard hoping for the best of their dreams. Some of them even take the risk and sacrifices of separating for awhile in order to work abroad just to make their dreams come true.

One day, I remember Gibson telling me that he just read in the internet that the husband of his former classmate posted a message saying: "Honey, at last, we can already build our dream house." Gibson added that he also posted a picture of their dream house. "It was really beautiful" Gibson said. The house that other couple dreams may not be as big and beautiful as what Gibson had told me about, but I'm sure, their wish, their dream is the very wish of every couple or family.

This is the reality of life, but the "Sendong" assault was more real than the people's dreams. "Sendong" broke not only the dreams of many people; it broke their homes, their families, their lives. It shattered their very hope and all that they had.

One morning, after one week of the “Sendong” attack, I asked my husband to escort me in going around Tibasak, Macasandig one of the areas that was very badly affected. It was very demoralizing. The place was terribly broken and it broke my heart too. I saw houses of people I personally know that were broken, many houses were gone. The place was generally empty and lonely. The river was very calm but evidently lonely. I wondered if the river was also sad and guilty.

Daddy and I continued our walk though the mud in some areas was still higher than my ankle and I had no boots, Cagayan de Oro ran out of supply of boots this time. So, I was wearing slippers until we reach a place where I saw few mothers with their kids digging the ground picking pieces of their broken homes which are also pieces of their broken dreams and broken hope.

Broken Families

As was said earlier, “Sendong” had directly, swiftly broken homes and families because while some members of the family fortunately survived or escaped the tragedy, some members were drowned, some were carried away and found dead, some were lost and gone. “Sendong” took away more or less a thousand people and hundreds of families lost their homes. But, the break up that I would like to tackle here is different.

Everyone knows that in times of troubles, hardships, and difficulties, members of the family should all the more be united, one in heart and mind and effort in order to handle the problems bravely and courageously, rise above the situation, and win the victory. That is the very reason why Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) prayed for the unity or oneness of His disciples before He was crucified. This is His Prayer:

“Father, I prayed for them. I do not pray for the world but for those you gave me, for they belong to you. All I

have is yours, and all you have is mine....Keep them safe by the power of your Name, the Name you gave me, so that they may be one just as you and I are one."

It is not easy to be alone in times of hardships and troubles. And, knowing that the disciples would be persecuted because of their faith, Yahshua the Messiah earnestly prayed for the unity of His disciples. Like Yahshua the Messiah's disciples, spouses need to help each other, be kind to one another, support each other morally, spiritually, and physically. Couples need to be truly one at all times, in all circumstances because in this world, "we are as lambs in the midst of wolves."

Sadly, because of irresponsible actions and poor disposition, the "Sendong" troubles made the wounds of some spouses deeper; intensified their pain and disappointments so that they finally decided to separate ways. It is really sad and I fervently hope that the break-up is only temporary.

The Trauma

The lingering and intense pain, anxiety, and worry drastically pinned down many people-male, female, young people, and especially the kids in a traumatic condition.

How I wish people's hearts and minds were like mechanically operated machine, electronics devices in times like the "Sendong" time. Then, it would be very easy for the affected people to get away of any traumatic experience. It would be much easier to switch on and off; off and on.

But human beings are different. Human beings are the highest form of God's creation. They are "delicately and wonderfully made", as the scripture says. They have intellect and emotion superior to the rest of God's creation. Consequently, when things around and life go wrong than usual, they are the ones who are greatly and adversely affected.

I still remember myself when the first heavy rain came after the "Sending" flood. I quickly rose up, took and packed a few of my clothes, and blankets to the upper room. I was

also watching the level of the water in the slope ready to do what I could do in the Name of the Lord, God in order to keep Cagayan de Oro safe in case another “Sendong” would attack. Praise God! The rain was heavy, hard and harsh but it did not last long.

I also remember one afternoon when my cell phone kept ringing and when I checked it, it was January, Joy, and Love texting that accordingly, the river has grown high and some of their co-teachers rushed home.

One day, Love met a mother and child on the road and the mother with red and teary eyes said, she has difficulty bringing her child back to school because her child is afraid “Sendong” will come again while she is in school.

Another parent testified that their child refused to get down and out of their car when they bring him to school. Crying, he adamantly refused to get down.

One father who lived in our Barangay and who used to bring and pick up his two children in school, would from time to time check out of his work to pick up his kids in

spite of the knowledge of everyone that his kids were swiftly taken away by “Sendong” flood. Oh! Lord, God have mercy! I am not sure if he was just trying to appease his indescribable feeling and gnawing thoughts by doing his usual routine.

Several neighbors, and friends told me that when it rains, they could not sleep. Some others deliberately stay awake and watch.

Some couples were in conflict because while the wives want or decided to go back home, their husbands strongly refused and even angry.

I praise and thank the Lord, God Almighty with all my heart that our kids Andrew and Sophia did not suffer as other kids do. Despite that when Andrew saw the great waters, he was stunned and hysterical. In fact, I was not only concerned of the fast rising water but also of Andrew’s condition. Thank you, dear God!

My Prayer

Dear Lord God Almighty, our Father and Savior.

You are the greatest healer of all, for, with you nothing is impossible. Lord, you only say the words and it is done according to your holy and powerful words.

You said to the lame man:

“Rise up and walk.”

The lame man rose up leaping and praising God.

You also asked the paralytic man for thirty eight years, who stayed beside the pool.

“Do you want to get well?”

The paralytic man answered: “Yes, Lord but I have no one to help me get into the pool....”

Lord, you said the words:

“Rise up and pick up your mat.”

*The paralytic man stood up miraculously and
carried his mat right away.*

*Lord, have mercy on your suffering people, I pray.
Touch them with your holy words and heal them
miraculously for your honor and glory, I pray. In
the name of Yahshua the Messiah. Amen.*

HalleluYah!

Changed Perspective

One day after the “Sendong” attack my daughter and I went to a shop to buy some clothes. There were many people in the shop but not so much busy picking and buying, rather, busy talking about the “Sendong” tragedy. From them we have heard many different sad and lonely stories. One of the sales clerks related with sadness how her relatives (whole family) died. She said that the family with six or more members including grandparents tied themselves together with a rope. Then, everyone concluded that it was such a sad and unimaginable death but at least by doing so, they have spared their relatives the trouble and agony of searching them individually.

It happened that one of our well-off neighbors who is a business woman was also there. She said, in all her life she has been very active and aspirant to do this and to have that to enrich her family, but now, “No more, not anymore; it’s useless, it’s useless, they are all useless when you die and are gone.” “It’s only now that I have come to realize how precious

life is. It is more precious than anything in this world; more than any amount of money", she added.

Most of the stories were sad, lonely, and emotionally touching. I was hurting because it hurts me so much to know that people are suffering and in deep pain. But, I also thank God that at that moment I have heard and known someone whose perspective in life has greatly changed for the better.

Indeed, life is very precious; precious beyond compare. In fact, God our Father in heaven sent His only begotten Son, Yahshua the Messiah to the world so that whosoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Yahshua the Messiah also said: What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the world but loses his own soul? (Mark 8: 36).

Experiences and observation tell us my brethren that when a member of a family is ill, the family does everything they can in order to have the sick cured. They are even willing to sell the very precious thing they have like a carabao or a bull for plowing the field and

farm, for the hospitalization and medicine of the sick. Why? It is because human life is very precious.

Life is a gift from God; we cannot get it or buy it somewhere no matter how rich one may be. Our body, soul, spirit belong to God Almighty our Creator and the Lord, our Savior. Let me take this opportunity therefore to remind ourselves to be good stewards of our life. Let us keep ourselves-body, soul, spirit healthy and strong as best as we can. Then let us use all that God has blessed us – our life together with all our other resources to give to our Father and Savior joy, honor, and glory forever and ever.

Let us properly nourish our body, soul, and spirit. Be moderate in all our activities like work, and in our intake. Let us be truly concerned of our wellness so that our Father and Savior can use us according to His Will and He will be glorified through our lives. Let us show our love and devotion to our Father and Savior by being responsible. The holy scripture teaches us this, if you cannot take good care of yourself and of the things that are yours, how

can you take good care of those that belong to others? Let us therefore show to our Father and Savior that we are trustworthy of much greater responsibility, even the responsibility to manage His Kingdom here on earth wisely and properly.

Bankrupt

Before the “Sendong” experience, I never thought the word bankrupt could be used and applied well in situation other than business or in business world. The dictionary, however, defines bankrupt as being reduced to financial ruin; wholly lacking in or deprived of some essential. I realized then that “Sendong” did not only cause financial ruin to many people and families but made them feel totally bankrupt. More than the financial and material bankruptcy, it made the people bankrupt psychologically and emotionally. The loss of loved ones, loss of families, loss of homes, I ‘m

sure, are much more poignant than the loss of millions of money.

“Sendong” was really terrible and horrible. When a business sinks, it does not happen in an hour. It takes years and the people concerned could still think and find ways and means to recover and keep things normally sailing. But “Sendong” harshly caused the people to sink to the very bottom of life so swiftly.

Nevertheless, this should remind us and give us true and lasting lesson, my brethren, that our security in life is not to be found anywhere nor in material riches or money but in the Lord God Almighty who is the source and the giver of life, the sustainer of life, and the source of every good thing. That is why, I believe, Yahshua the Messiah taught the people saying: *Take heed and beware of covetousness, for a man's life consist not in the abundance of the things which he possesses* (**Luke 12:15**). Yahshua the Messiah was renewing the minds of the people by inculcating that man should value life more than the world's riches. To value life is to take heed of the word of God, our Father and

Savior. The Psalmist declared: You are the source of all life or the foundation of life, and because of your light we see the light (Psalm 36: 9). The writer of Proverbs wrote: For whoso findeth me findeth life, and obtain favour of the Lord (Proverbs 8: 35).

To this world's view, those who have nothing in this world are really bankrupt. Those who lost their love ones and the things they value most because of "Sendong" may feel that they are totally bankrupt but the truth, my brethren, is: He who lives with the Lord and for the Lord humbly and sincerely is never and will never be bankrupt. There is always abundance of all good things in the hands of our loving Father and Savior.

Let me take Job, my brethren, one of the Bible heroes as our inspiration and model. Job lost all his children- seven sons and three daughters in a raging storm that hit them. He also lost his thousands of sheep, his cattle, his camels, his servants to those who attacked them. More than that, Job was stricken with horrible disease and greatly suffered physically while he had nothing and no one to care for

him except his heavily burdened wife. But because Job lived with God and for God faithfully; because Job was patient and enduring, he finally won the victory for God's honor and glory. Job in spite of all, showed his strong faith and devotion to God Almighty by saying: "...The Lord gave, and now he has taken away. May his Name be praised!"

We can also have Lazarus the leper as our inspiration. Lazarus stayed at the gate of a rich man waiting and hoping for mercy. But when the rich man died, he suffered in Hades, while when Lazarus died, he was in the bosom of Abraham our ancestor in the faith, and who gained the favour of God Almighty our Father in heaven.

In anguish the rich man called out to Abraham: "Father Abraham! Take pity on me, send Lazarus to dip his finger in some water and cool off my tongue, because I am in great pain in this fire! But Abraham said: 'Remember, my son, that in your lifetime you were given all the good things, while Lazarus got all the bad things. But now he is enjoying himself here, while you are in pain. Besides all that, there is a

deep pit lying between us, so that you cannot do so, nor can anyone cross over to us from where you are.'" (Luke 16)

Our God and Father in heaven, my brethren, is just and holy. He is not unrighteous that he would just ignore and forget our love and devotion to Him. He is not unrighteous that He will forget our labor of love in His name. He is Omniscient; He knows how much we have suffered for the sake of goodness and righteousness. He knows all the sacrifices we made in order to do His Will and follow Him. Certainly, our just and loving God will reward everyone according to what each one has done, and according to the thoughts and intents of every man's heart.

Joy's Grade VI Class

Joy is the youngest among the four siblings and as I have said earlier, the school year 2011-2012 is Joy's first year of teaching. I was wondering and a bit anxious as to how Joy would be able to handle the abnormal condition at home and most especially the condition of her many pupils/students. I was in pain for Joy; as if my heart was squeezed. If only I could, to be with her in school to assist, I would. For, I knew it was not easy for every teacher to cope with the tragic and painful happening.

The "Sendong" tragedy was the beginning of the school's Christmas vacation. So, two weeks and a little more days after, was the beginning of school days in 2012. Joy said: At first, she had only few pupils and they gathered in a tent because the classrooms were all occupied by the evacuees. The pupils had practically nothing. Clothes were not of their size; some are bigger, some are smaller or shorter. They had no shoes although some others had slippers. No books, notebooks, and

bags, no money. It was such a hard and painful reality to accept.

Joy further said that while they were gathered, all she did was to listen to their many sad stories and comfort them; assure them of a better life and future with the love of God and care of people around, people near and far. She encouraged them to be strong and keep praising and thanking God in everything. Told them that God has a purpose in everything. God loves them and He has a very special purpose of their lives and they should live to accomplish that purpose.

I really thank God for taking good care of Joy. I was watching, observing and I knew that by God's grace and mercy she was well able to handle the situation. In fact, one day, while Daddy and I were in the car going to the grocery, we said to each other: I'm really impressed how the Lord God works through Joy as a teacher and class adviser, as a big sister, as a mother to the pupils in school in extremely difficult condition. It's amazing; it's really wonderful!

In time, the graduation month, March 2012 came. Although none of Joy's forty four pupils died and lost, there were some in other classes, so the graduation was again full of emotion. Those who departed and were supposed to receive honors were given tribute and very special recognition. Finally, and gladly at the end of the school year 2011-2012, I have not a bit of doubt that the Lord God, our Father and Savior completely won the victory over satan because praises and thanksgiving to God prevailed and was greatly heard in spite of everything.

Outpouring of Emotions

West City Central School is in Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City. A school where most of their pupils and teachers live in places that were strongly hit by the "Sendong" flood. I think I have mentioned earlier that one of the Grade VI teachers lost (drowned inside the house) her three children at same time. Another teacher lost her younger sister and found her dead. Others lost their cousin, nephew or niece.

To lose the ones you love most, I believe, is the greatest pain in life.

I asked Joy particularly about the teacher whose three children were gone, if she was on leave, Joy said: "No, she is around." I supposed, it was not only because of the responsibility she holds but I guess, and perhaps, she would be lonelier at home or somewhere else. The teachers bravely faced the situation; they appeared as heroes before their afflicted pupils/students although in truth, at the back of their minds and at the bottom of their hearts, I knew they were fainting. *Congratulations Teachers!* You are indeed heroes in the lives of our country's children and champions in the field of education.

Teachers did not have enough time to be together as they were busy and scattered in several tents. But sometimes when they incidentally met on the way, they lovingly hugged each other and in silence they would look at each other with tears in their eyes. With the abundance of the things stored in their hearts and the many things they wanted to say, the teachers became speechless. During these

times, the saying: "Action speaks louder than words", found its real place and true meaning in the lives of the afflicted.

One afternoon Joy arrived home from school. As usual, she unloaded herself with her bags and then changed her clothes. It was quiet, by and by, I felt someone was crying. My heart leaped anxiously, I thought something was really wrong. Then Joy slowly came out, coming to me crying, so I asked, "What's wrong, Joy? Did somebody scold you? She answered: "No, mommy I just can no longer bear the pain quietly, seeing how my pupils are suffering."

She further narrated that one of her pupils who lost his mother, brought with him in her class a three-year-old boy because their father had to earn as a driver and there was no one to take care of the boy. While another younger brother who is in Grade III kept checking his older brother because he was afraid he might lose his brother like their mother. Joy was so emotionally touched of the situation. I couldn't help myself also but sigh in

grief. Then I comforted Joy saying, "Let's give it all to the Lord in prayer, Joy."

Our Prayer

Lord God our Father in heaven nothing is kept from thee because you are the Almighty. You see Joy's pupils and everyone else who are in misery. Help us and guide us what to do we pray, and let them feel your love and mercy. Give them the assurance that you are our everything day by day, as we continue our journey no matter how rough the road may be. That, you are always there for us, ready to help us carry our burdens all the way, until we see you face to face happily for eternity. In the Name of Yahshua the Messiah. Amen. HalleluYah!

My Solemn Inquiry

One night as I lay quietly before sleeping, I pondered and meditated on what happened. Suddenly, tears of thanksgiving and tears of pain as well just kept rolling down my cheeks. I vividly recalled and imagined all that happened. The great flashing of the “Sendong” waters, the shouting for help, the crying, the commotion, reawakened me of the fact that God is God while we are merely humans; God is the Creator, we are only creatures. Indeed, as the heavens are higher than the earth.... God’s thoughts are much higher and wiser than man’s thoughts; God’s ways are much higher than man’s ways (Isaiah 55: 8-9).

God our Father in heaven is all-knowing, omniscient. On the other hand, no matter how diligent a man maybe in his research and study, there are still countless of things that he does not know, he does not understand. And, this should make us realize deeper that we are only humans, apart from God our Father and Savior, we are nothing. Apart from His grace, mercy, and favour we would all be gone away in a brief moment.

Apart from His saving grace we would all swiftly return to dust and we will be good for nothing. I believe this is the reason why the Psalmist boldly declared: Before you created the hills or brought the world into being, you were eternally God, and will be God forever....We are like weeds that sprout in the morning, that grow and burst into bloom, then dry up and die in the evening....So is man's life, life is soon over, and we are gone....Teach us how short our life is, so that we may become wise (Psalm 90). Life is really very short, so let us constantly remind ourselves my brethren, to use every day, every moment of our life wisely for the good of our people and for God's honor and glory.

Meanwhile, when I have regained my composure, I solemnly asked God our Father, and Savior with all my what, why, and how such as: What is the meaning...? Why were we unaware...? What will happen? How should things be...? Our God and Almighty Father Yahweh, His Son Yahshua the Messiah, the Holy Spirit is really good and gracious. He answered my what, why, how more than I

could have hoped. Allow me to share with you God's answers to my solemn inquiry.

“Remember? I told you to read and study Revelation 12.”

The first thing I did in the morning was to check my Diary. Truly, my brethren, the revelation and instruction is there. On January 23, 2009 the Lord, God said: ***“While men and women are being purified, keep yourself pure and holy.” “Read and study Revelation 12.”***

Revelation 12 partly has these words which I will quote for our meditation: “There's a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars....and to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And *the serpent cast* out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, the earth opened her mouth, and

swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.”

“It was Planned in the air”

Ephesians 6: 11-12 says: Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

I am deeply convinced my brethren, that the “Sendong” flood was not a natural one. It was planned and executed by the powers of darkness, by the rulers of the darkness of this world, by the spirits of darkness in high places or in the air.

It was indeed, as some people said: “The “Sendong” flood was a devil, a demon. It had a very strange movements and sounds. Terribly strange; it was not an ordinary storm and flood.”

“The devil wants to destroy you. The devil wants to destroy you. The devil wants to destroy you.”

My brethren, I strongly believe that the “Sendong” storm and flood was not from God to punish man. It was a deliberate act and work of the devil against man. However, God did not prevent the devil from doing so, because man has greatly sinned. In other words, satan has gained a limited right to do what he wishes against man because of sin. Sin is really terrible and horrible, at the fullness of time, sin brings destruction and sorrows.

“I have set everything in place for you.”

“An angel from the United States of America.”

I have mentioned that near our house there’s a slope. The slope covers a very long area. But God, in His mercy has put everything in place near our house, in our own lot. The three big and tall plastic containers – almost five feet tall. Two other pieces half of its size, two regular size pail, three big basin were special blessing from God. Few similar items were given to others. The said special blessing spared us of the problem in storing waters. At this point I would like to acknowledge the kindness of Sonny and Thelma Mendoza who

made effort in providing the neighbors with water by a fire truck who diligently delivered enough supply of water.

Mary Love, January's friend who came with a pair of boots, flash light, short pants and blouses was stunned when she saw the plastic containers. With a loud voice she exclaimed: "Where in the world have you gotten those containers? Cagayan de Oro ran out of supply of pails and basins, and here you are with all these? Don't tell me you already have these before the flood?" January was probably tired that she did not bother to answer. She just smiled.

"I am Coming"

Come, Oh Lord, and rule the world! My brethren the Lord's Coming is already very clear and evident. The signs of the Lord's coming as recorded in the Holy Bible are now happening. He is coming anytime from today. At another times the Lord also spoke to me saying: *"The end is near. Watch out."* *"The judgement of this world is very near."* Let us, then, "Seek the Lord, his righteousness, and his Kingdom" while there is still time. Let us keep

watch. Let us be ready. Let us purge and purify ourselves of every kind of sin through faith and humble obedience in the Lord Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) so that when He comes at night, or in the morning or at noon we would be ready and acceptable unto Him. Then we will be with Him in perfect peace and joy in His Kingdom for eternity.

“Remember to use the power of Yahweh Almighty and Yahshua the Messiah.”

Yahshua the Messiah said to His disciples: “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10: 19-20).

Let us take heed, my brethren, that the enemy has power to destroy. But do not be afraid or discourage, rather, let us give thanks and praise to God our Father and Savior whose power is much greater than the power of the enemy. Let us give thanks and praise to our Father and Savior whose power is supreme

over all. And, remember, that He has given unto us such power; a divine and mighty power. The power that can break and destroy all the works of the enemy, in the name of His Son Yahshua the Messiah.

Above all, my brethren, let us rejoice and give thanks to God our Father and Savior because our names are written in heaven. Prophet Habakkuk said: *“The just shall live by his faith”* (Habakkuk 2:4). Because we believe and we have faith in our Father and Savior, because we live by faith and walk by faith, because we constantly seek to do God’s Will, because of our devotion to God our Father and Savior, our names are certainly written in the “Book of Life” and therefore we will live with Him forever.

Our Electric Light

At the time the “Sendong” storm hit hard the city, I believe, the electricity was immediately or automatically cut off because when we rose up it was already very dark. I understand that although it was difficult to move in a dark and distressed situation, it was for the safety of the people.

Since that time it took us long to have the electricity back to the community and houses. To some families, it took them three or more weeks. But, glory be to our Father and Savior who blessed Daddy and Gibson with some knowledge and skills in electrical works. Daddy and Gibson together with Jason my son-in-law who is a licensed electrician in U.K. made things much easier for our electric wirings to be checked, cleaned, and replaced those that needed replacements. However, even when houses were ready for reconnection, still, it was not easy to have the light back because the CEPALCO people were also very busy.

Nevertheless, God our Father in heaven is really good and kind. He shows His goodness and kindness in many wonderful ways. God showed His care for us through the thoughtfulness and help of Mr. Sonny Mendoza, Vice President of Banco De Oro – BDO who made effort to have our electricity reconnected on time. In my presence, he called somebody and made a request on our behalf so that on December 31, 2011 our electricity was already restored. It was, surely, one of our New Year's gifts from God through Sonny. HalleluYah!

God Never Fails

The Cagayan de Oro Water District (COWD) and Cagayan de Oro Electric Power and Light Co. (CEPALCO) inevitably failed right after the “Sendong” attack, but certainly, in all circumstances God never fails. HalleluYah!

Despite the electric power and water system failures, gladly, flash lights, bottles and gallons of drinking water were made available to us and to the others by some friends and concerned people. In fact, few days after that fateful night, I met Tingting one of my schoolmates in high school and she told me that the officials in our home town (Medina, Misamis Oriental) organized volunteers to come to Cagayan de Oro and distributed food and water to people in affected areas. She said: *“Din, I sternly told them to find you.”* My sincere thanks to all friends and concerned people who made God, our Father and Savior happy by doing what should be done. And, I would like to dedicate this poem to you.

God Watches and He Never Fails

*Our loving God and Father who sits on
His holy and glorious Throne,
Watches over every nation and looks on the
heart of each person.*

*His heart leaps with joy and pride
Whenever He sees one who is eager and ready
To help those who are in need.*

*The begotten Son who sits at the right of
The Father's awesome and glorious Throne,
Never fails to recompense so well
Those who do the Father's Will in
His Name, to build the heavenly Home.
Blessed are those who willingly share the pain
And wisely spend the Father's treasures
Deposited in his personal item.*

*The Lord will say:
'Come, you that are blessed by my Father!
Come and possess the kingdom....
For I was hungry and you fed me,
Thirsty and you gave me a drink.
I was naked and you clothed me
Sick and you took care of me.'*

*Surprised: The righteous said;
'When, Lord did we ever see you hungry
and fed you?*

*Thirsty and gave you drink?
Naked and clothed you?'*

*The Lord answers:
'When you did these things to the least
of my brethren,
You have done it unto me.'*

*God is good, gracious and merciful
He never fails to listen
and answer the prayers of the poor.
He is generous and gracious to the lowly,
humble, and faithful,
He is holy and merciful that He never
ignores the plea of His people.
According to His unsearchable knowledge
and wisdom,
He fairly gave gifts to each man and woman
And justly reward everyone
According to what each one has done.*

Words of Advice

My brethren, allow me to give you some words of advice from the wisdom and insights I gained out of my personal experience with “Sendong.”

- Provide your houses a ladder in going up, going to the ceiling or roof. Maybe a steel bars or wood ladder attached to the wall or permanent cabinets.
- Put hammer, saw, ropes in a place that is accessible in case it is needed.
- Tie quality cords somewhere in the ceiling. Cords that are easy to pull down for the members of the family to hold and float while working to open the roof, for example.
- Tie or screw your movable cabinets, beds, and other movable things in the house that can be tied or screwed so that it will not move against people.
- Keep an emergency kit filled with drinking water, biscuit, flashlight, first aid medicine.

- Do not put something or objects above you especially above your head while sleeping.
- Provide your house with a fire exit.
- In case of emergency like the “Sendong” attack, immediately call the attention of everybody in the house.
- Do not panic; do not scatter yourselves without the knowledge of the others.
- As much as possible, assemble and briefly pray, beg for God’s mercy and help.
- Agree what to do first and who should do it; who should help or assist.
- Be always conscious of the safety of everybody; people first before things.
- “Pray without ceasing.”

Special Thanks

On this page the author would like to give special thanks to all peoples and organizations around the world who, in one way or another, shared our agony through their heartfelt sympathy, sincere prayers offered to God Almighty, financial and material support or help. Also, through the volunteers such as the volunteer house builders who came from a long way and who willingly endured the great inconvenience in order to help, alleviate or mitigate the pain, and many more.

I would like also to make mention and give due recognition to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) whose members (military men) did a lot of sacrifices even risked their own life and safety.

A very special thank also goes to the leaders of our Barangay, our City, Province, District, and the National leaders of our country who are like our Father and Mother, big brothers, and big sisters especially in times of disaster and calamity.

Our sincere and special thanks to the following:

President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III

The President’s Staff and Cabinet Members

Vice President Jejomar Binay and Staff

The Senators

The Congressmen

Governor Oscar S. Moreno

Vice Governor Norris C. Babiera, Sr.

Provincial Kagawads Misamis Oriental

Mayor Vicente Y. Emano

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City Councilors Cagayan de Oro City

Barangay Captain Aaron Neri

Barangay Kagawads Brgy. Macasandig,

Cagayan de Oro City

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Thank you for all your efforts and sacrifices.

I would like also to take this precious opportunity to especially recognize the untiring effort of the **Representative of our District, Congressman Rufus B. Rodriguez** for his dedication to build our people, our country through his many relevant and valuable projects.

More Power and Success to You

And

May God our Father and Savior

Bless the Philippines

* Adapted from books written by
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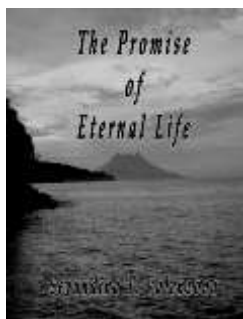


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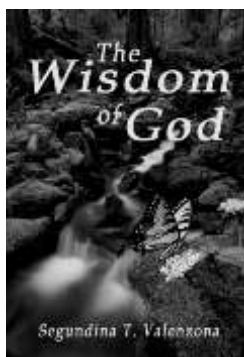
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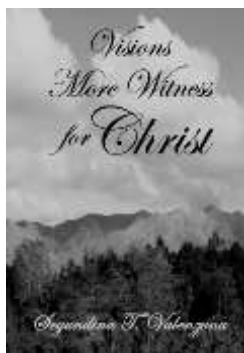
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