

Perth helping to build post-typhoon

By MICHAEL SOH

REBUILDING is under way for typhoon Haiyan victims in the Northern Cebu province of Bogo in the Philippines, but thousands remain homeless, according to Perth charity Buckets for Jesus coordinator Ruby Soh.

Mrs Soh and husband Mike visited Bogo as part of an Apostolic mission to the Philippines last month. The couple discovered that several new homes for typhoon Haiyan victims had been built in the area, and will continue to support the rebuilding through their Adopt a Family Appeal.

Founded in January, Adopt a Family's aim is to build homes for Haiyan-affected families for as little as \$2,000.

"Adopt a Family appeal to date has attracted 25 donations, so we have 25 to go in order to meet the 50 units required to build one community and achieve the economies of scale," Mrs Soh told *The Record*.

"This is only the beginning: thousands still remain homeless but we pray many will join our cause and together, one family at a time, we can help repair homes and put a roof above a homeless disaster family."

A dozen generators donated by Redstar arrived recently in a 40-foot sea container from Perth that contained several donations for Haiyan victims. The generators have enabled the construction of schools and low-cost houses.

"Until today, CEBECO (or Cebu Electric Cooperative) uses these generators to troubleshoot areas with power interruption," Mrs Soh said.

"They were so grateful to Buckets for Jesus and its donors for these



New homes for typhoon Haiyan victims have been built in the Northern Cebu province of Bogo in the Philippines.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

donations that help them on a daily basis that they actually invited us last month to a grand dinner and program to thank Buckets for Jesus."

The May Apostolic mission also saw Buckets for Jesus visit Mrs Soh's hometown of Tungao and Butuan City, which was recently hit by a severe flood.

According to Mrs Soh, there is a great need of help in the area, although the suffering is limited as

the locals have access to power and sanitation.

She also explained that the situation had not improved at Haiyan-affected regions that Buckets for Jesus brought relief to in January.

"Poverty levels have worsened due to lack of jobs available and opportunities are low without commerce and trade resumption plus lack of power and proper sanitation resulting in sickness and more problems," she said.

"We were also informed by villagers that there has been high occurrence of malnutrition and more illness in their families."

"We also received a miracle in April, the Lord orchestrated a tax-exempt channel which World Relief Australia gave to Buckets for Jesus and we since received 10 family adoptions from this channel."

The mission trip also saw the establishment of the Buckets for

Jesus Foundation, which allows the charity to receive donations tax-free and customs duty free for sending sea containers full of donations.

"This will be life-changing and will help transform lives as more donations and resources will hopefully be made available for our humanitarian and apostolic work," Mrs Soh said.

For more information, visit www.bucketsforjesus.org.

DINNER DANCE FUNDRAISER

Adopt A Family Appeal JULY 5 • 7PM - 12AM
at The Mercure Hotel

BUFFET • CASH BAR • SILENT AUCTION • RAFFLE DRAW •
DOOR PRIZES • DANCING

All proceeds from ticket sales, auction and raffle sales will go towards the 'Adopt A Family' Appeal to build homes for Typhoon Haiyan victims.

Saturday, July 5th, 7pm - 12am
Mercure Ballroom at the Mercure Hotel
10 Irwin Street, Perth

Tickets: \$75 per head. Any additional generosity is greatly appreciated.
Table of 10 for \$680

For more information:
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Buckets for Jesus missions involve personally visiting and distributing 'buckets' or gifts containing basic necessities such as food, clothes, hygiene supplies, as well as Bibles and devotionals in the native language to the poorest of the poor in Manila, Cebu, Dumaguete, Davao as well as isolated areas affected by natural disasters. We reach out to the forgotten and the unloved in the slums, streets, prisons, orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospitals and the sick in mind, body and spirit.

'Adopt A Family': Our goal is to assist in the repair, design and build of low cost houses for the poorest of the poor rendered homeless by typhoon Haiyan or Yolanda. We also intend to design cluster dwellings for areas with land limitations. We are in contact with Mayors of 5 affected areas who have allocated land where these homes will be constructed.



Visit our facebook event page
Search "Dinner Dance Fundraiser : Adopt A Family Appeal"

