

crest+

CRISIS RELIEF SERVICES & TRAINING

Bringing God's love to the poor & needy in crisis

- Date • 21st February 2014 (Friday)
- Time • 7.30 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.
- Venue • Ballroom 1 & 2, 1st Floor
Sime Darby Convention Centre
1A, Jalan Bukit Kiara 1, K. L.



YOUR HELP 
THEIR HOPE

15th
year

**ANNIVERSARY
FUND-RAISING DINNER**

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OUR JOURNEY

In 1995,

during the height of the Rwanda crisis, 2 American doctors, **Drs. Mark** and **Betsy Neuenschwander** of the International Health Services Foundation received a vision from God to raise up disaster relief teams across the world. They visited Malaysia and conducted 3 consecutive **Disaster Relief Schools (DRS)** in 1995, 1996 and 1997. From these training schools, a group of graduates received God's call to establish a disaster relief organization in Asia.

On 3rd December 1998,

CREST was birthed in Malaysia.



Now, **CREST** serves in countries across Asia and takes on the mantle to train more relief volunteers in Malaysia and beyond. **CREST** has also moved beyond mere active emergency response into rehabilitation and reconstruction with the ultimate goal of impacting communities into self dignity and reliance.



“The heart of the matter will always be . . . the matter of the heart.”
- Max Lucado

“Kindness should be a lifestyle not a random act.”



Crisis Relief Services and Training Berhad (CREST) was planted in 1998. During its formative years, the ground was hard and dry. Much toil and tears were expended to remove many stones impeding its growth. Fertilizers of liquid prayers were regularly poured onto it. Since then, it has grown into a fruitful tree with branches spreading far and wide to many nations.

In the earlier years, CREST was also like a speed boat weaving in and out of the tumultuous waves of natural disasters bringing relief and aid, which, though was fast, yet was meager. In recent times, however, we have been able to enlarge our capacity, traversing the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans with containers after loaded containers of relief goods: food, safe drinking water, medicine and materials for shelter among many others to where they are desperately needed. Volunteers from all walks of life crossed the oceans too as ambassadors of hope and comfort, bringing goods and recovery to the weary and weakened survivors.

The progression from speed boat to cargo liner has been made possible by the providence of a merciful loving Father and the generosity of compassionate caring people. This pipeline of goodwill can flow continuously through CREST where your contribution and donation will be effectively channeled.

With your continuous support, we can go the extra mile. Every drop counts.

CREST thanks you, appreciates you and loves you.

Together in His Love,

Lana Wong
Executive Director



Congratulations CREST on 15 years of Kingdom Excellence!

Tonight at this banquet we celebrate ALL who will feast at the Wedding Supper of the Lamb because of the diligent and faithful work of CREST.

As many of you know, the Chinese word “disaster” is translated “opportunity in crisis”. Jesus, Himself announced that the Gospel would go forth in the midst of wars, rumours of wars, plagues, famines, earthquakes (or tsunamis). Your partnering with CREST literally fulfils His mandate as you help “... rescue those staggering to slaughter” (Proverbs 24: 11). Indeed Scripture promises that “... everything that can be shaken will be shaken” (Hebrews 12:27). This shaking provides “opportunities” for the Gospel, for CREST and for you!

We so much esteem how the members of CREST are compelled by God’s love as they practically demonstrate the Gospel. Scripture tells us that we are to weep with those who weep. God’s compassion, sometimes with tears, helps build over in which Jesus can be shared.

We give glory to God and much applause to CREST’s intercessors, volunteers, responders, trainers, office staff and all personnel who have over the years persevered and overcome many adversities. We are all constantly challenged by the truths in Revelation 2 and 3 that rewards only go to those who repeatedly persevere and overcome.

We salute you for not becoming weary in well doing. We honour you for having done all to continue to stand. We enthusiastically ask you to invest your time, prayers, talents, finances and influence to undergird and expand this great work.

Thank you for expressing your heart for the lost through CREST.

Drs. Mark and Betsy Neuenschwander

“Courage (faith) is not the absence of fear, but a tank that pushes past the roadblocks of paralyzing fear.”



CRISIS RELIEF SERVICES & TRAINING

Bringing God's love to the poor & needy in crisis

CRISIS RELIEF SERVICES & TRAINING BERHAD

is a non-profit, faith-based organization with a W.I.S.H. approach



VISION

To be agents of change, building bridges to fragmented communities affected by humanitarian disasters.

MISSION

Compassion for the poor, wounded and fragmented Rebuilding of ruined cities Economic recovery through micro-enterprises Sustainable programs with livelihood projects Transformation for former desolated communes.

FUNDING

CREST is a non-profit organization where funds for operations and projects come entirely from the contribution of individuals and organizations. Our funds are managed in the account of Crisis Relief Services & Training Berhad, a company limited by guarantee and constituted under the Companies Act 1965. All donations to CREST are duly receipted and accounted. Our accounts are audited annually and open for inspection.



Since its establishment in 1998, CREST has trained and sent volunteers from all walks of life to 18 countries to provide humanitarian assistance in the form of medical aid, food, water, clothing and shelter to victims of natural disasters and crisis situations. Working with partners who share the same vision, many unreached groups who often do not receive mainline media coverage have been helped.



2013 Typhoon Haiyan, known as **Typhoon Yolanda** in the Philippines, was an exceptionally powerful tropical cyclone that devastated parts of Southeast Asia. It hit the Philippines on November 8. The deadliest Philippine typhoon on record, it killed at least 6,200 people in that country alone. Haiyan is also the strongest storm recorded at landfall, and unofficially the strongest typhoon ever recorded in terms of wind speed. It has caused catastrophic destruction in the Visayas, particularly in Samar and Leyte. About 11 million people have been affected and many have been left homeless. The actual death toll remains unclear.

2013 Bohol Earthquake occurred on October 15 in Bohol, an island province located in Central Visayas, Philippines. The magnitude of the earthquake at the epicenter was recorded at 7.2, at a depth of 12 km. It affected the whole Central Visayas region, particularly Bohol and Cebu and was felt in the whole Visayas area and as far as Masbate island in the north and Cotabato provinces in southern Mindanao. It was the deadliest earthquake in the Philippines in 23 years. The energy of the quake released was equivalent to 32 Hiroshima bombs! 222 were reported dead, 8 were missing, and 976 people were injured. In all, more than 73,000 structures were damaged, of which more than 14,500 were totally destroyed.

2012 Typhoon Bopha, known as **Typhoon Pablo** in the Philippines was the strongest tropical cyclone to ever hit the island of Mindanao, making landfall as a Category 5 super typhoon with winds of 175 mph. After first hitting Palau, where it destroyed houses, disrupted communications and caused power outages, flooding and uprooted trees, Bopha made landfall late on December 3 on Mindanao, which had been devastated by the much weaker Tropical Storm Washi in December 2011. After hitting Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley provinces, it crossed the southern and central regions of Mindanao, cutting power to two provinces and triggering landslides. More than 170,000 people fled to evacuation centers.

2012 Typhoon Saola, known as **Typhoon Gener** in the Philippines caused widespread rains in the Philippines in July due to the enhancement of the southwest monsoon. Severe rainfall was recorded throughout Metro Manila and nearby provinces. The death toll was 37, with at least 519,000 people affected. Damage from the storm amounted to about US\$9.6 million, half of which was due to agricultural losses.

2011 Typhoon Nesat known as **Typhoon Pedring** in the Philippines was the most powerful tropical cyclone to directly impact China since 2005 also struck the Philippines during the 2011 Pacific typhoon season, killing 83 people. It is the 17th named storm, the 11th severe tropical storm, the 7th typhoon and overall, the 30th tropical cyclone to be monitored by the Japan Meteorological Agency(JMA) during the year. Nesat came exactly 2 years after Typhoon Ketsana made landfall in the Philippines as the most devastating typhoon in the 2009 Pacific typhoon season with a damage of US\$1.09 billion and 747 fatalities. Nesat was also the first of twin tropical cyclones to batter the Philippines within one week during September 2011, the second was Nalgae.

2011 Severe Tropical Storm Washi, known as **Typhoon Sendong** in the Philippines made landfall over Mindanao on December 16. 10 hours of torrential rain triggered catastrophic flash floods and landslides resulting in at least 1,268 fatalities. In some locations, flood waters rose by 3.3 m. in less than 1 hour. Residents impacted by these flood waters were forced to seek refuge on their roofs amidst 90 km/h winds. The mayor of Iligan regarded the floods as the worst in the city's history.

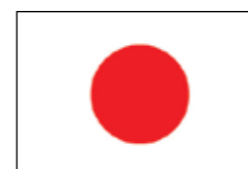


2008 Sichuan Earthquake, also known as **Wenchuan Earthquake** was a deadly earthquake that measured 7.9. It occurred on May 12, in Wenchuan County in Sichuan province. It was felt in much of central, eastern and southern China, including Beijing, Guangzhou, Hefei, Nanjing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Wuhan and in Hong Kong. Also felt in parts of Bangladesh, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Strong aftershocks, some exceeding magnitude 6, continued to hit the area even months after the main quake, causing new casualties and damage. Official figures confirmed 69,195 dead, 374,177 injured, 18,392 missing and 5 million people homeless. It was the deadliest earthquake to hit China since the 1976 Tangshan earthquake and the strongest in the country since the 1950 Chayu earthquake. It is also the 21st deadliest earthquake of all time.

2010 Yushu Earthquake struck on April 14 with a magnitude of 6.9. The epicenter was in Yushu, Qinghai, China. 2,698 people were killed, 270 missing, and 12,135 injured. At least 11 schools were destroyed including a vocational school where many students were trapped. It was felt as far away as Kathmandu in Nepal and Chiangmai in Thailand.



2009 Sumatra Earthquake occurred just off the southern coast of Sumatra, Indonesia on September 30 with a magnitude of 7.9. It was felt in much of Peninsular Malaysia and as far away as Chiang Mai, Thailand. A 27-cm (center-to-peak) local tsunami was recorded at Padang. At least 1,117 people killed, 1,214 injured, 181,665 buildings destroyed or damaged and about 451,000 people displaced in the Padang-Pariaman area.



2011 Tohoku Earthquake also known as the **3.11 Earthquake** and referred to in Japan as the **Great East Japan Earthquake**. It occurred on March 11: a magnitude 9.0 undersea megathrust earthquake having its epicentre 70 km. east of the Oshika Peninsula of T hoku and the hypocenter at an underwater depth of 30 km. The most powerful known earthquake to have hit Japan, it is also the 5th most powerful earthquake in the world since modern record-keeping began in 1900. It triggered powerful tsunami waves that reached heights of up to 40.5 metres in Miyako in Tohoku's Iwate Prefecture, and travelled up to 10 km. inland in Sendai. It also moved Honshu, the main island of Japan, 2.4 m. east and shifted the Earth on its axis by estimates of between 10 cm. and 25 cm. and generated sound waves detected by the low orbiting GOCE satellite.

Statistics compiled up to September 12 2012, confirmed 15,883 dead, 6,150 injured, 2,643 missing across 20 prefectures, as well as 129,225 buildings totally collapsed, 254,204 buildings half collapsed, 691,766 buildings partially damaged. The tsunami caused the Level 7+ meltdowns at 3 reactors in the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant complex. Residents within a 20 km radius of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant and a 10 km radius of the Fukushima Daini Nuclear Power Plant were evacuated. The World Bank estimated the economic cost at US\$235 billion, making it the costliest natural disaster in world history.



2011 Johor Floods. Heavy rainfall over 6 days in February caused massive flooding in all 10 districts in the state including Segamat displacing more than 30,000 people to about 200 relief centres state-wide. At least 2 fatalities were recorded and millions of ringgit of property and livestock was lost. The Segamat River broke its bank and a big rush of water came over Segamat town. Houses near the river along had water up to the top of the front gates at the peak of the flooding. The town was the worst hit and was inaccessible for a day.

2009 Baram Floods. In February, floods have forced the closure of 34 schools in Baram in remote northern Sarawak and Mukah in central Sarawak, affecting some 13,000 children. The worst affected district in northern Sarawak is Long Lama, located some 350km from Miri. The flood waters throughout Long Lama are about 13m above the normal river level. About 20,000 rural folks in flood-ravaged settlements in interior northern Sarawak were in urgent need of food supplies. Food supply depleted after weeks of heavy rain inundated their settlements and destroyed their padi fields and vegetable farms. Swift river currents pose a danger to boats ferrying aid workers and food supply.

2013 Bertam Valley Flash Mud Flood. At about 1am on October 23, a flash mud flood hit Lembah Bertam, caused by the release of water from the Sultan Abu Bakar Dam which resulted in the death of 3 people. Some 10 kongsi houses located at the banks Sungai Bertam were totally destroyed. 80 houses were affected and SJK (C) Bertam located there was also closed. About 100 vehicles were damaged or destroyed as well as vegetable farms.



2010 Pakistan Floods. Heavy monsoon rains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan resulted in the floods in late July. About 796,095 sq. km. was under water. This is 1/5 of Pakistan's total land area. The floods directly affected about 20 million people, killing close to 2,000 and destroying property, livelihood and infrastructure.

2011 Sindh Floods. In mid-August, the monsoon season brought heavy rains to Sindh, eastern Balochistan, and southern Punjab. An estimated 434 people were killed, and 5.3 million people and 1.5 million homes affected. Sindh is a fertile region and often called the "breadbasket" of Pakistan; at least 1.7 million acres of arable land was flooded.



2008 Cyclone Nargis (also known as **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Nargis**) was a rare, eastward moving at low-latitude strong tropical cyclone that caused the worst natural disaster in the recorded history of Myanmar. The cyclone made landfall in Myanmar on Friday, May 2 and sent a storm surge 40 km. up the densely populated Irrawaddy delta, causing catastrophic destruction and at least 138,000 fatalities. There were about 55,000 missing and many other deaths were found in other towns and areas. However, the feared 'second wave' of fatalities from disease and lack of relief efforts didn't materialized. It could well be the 7th deadliest or even higher because the exact death toll is uncertain.



*“What I do you cannot do;
but what you do, I cannot do.
The needs are great, and none of us,
including me, ever do great things.
But we can all do small things,
with great love, and
Together we can do something wonderful.”
- Mother Teresa*



One child caught my attention. She had a physical deformity. She also had many open wounds and infection had set in and flies were swarming around her. She was in great pain as she walked into the meeting place. She sat with her friends who welcomed and accepted her for who she was. *As the sidewalk Sunday School began, the children sang, jumped and listened to the stories. After the event, the children came up to meet and take photographs with the team. All of them wanted their pictures taken and begin to queue up and so did this little girl. As she came up pushing through her friends, our team leader, Lana, took her picture and showed her*

how she looked. The minute she saw herself, a beautiful smile appeared on the girl's face that had previously grimaced in pain. As Lana began to take more pictures of her, the presence of God just swept through this little girl and she began to burst into laughter and her countenance changed and shined. **The joy of the Lord just filled her up and gave her in that split second to feel and taste joy just like the other normal children... being accepted, touched and given an opportunity to see her own beauty not just in her own eyes but through His eyes - that she was special to Him.**

I had the opportunity to go to the Philippines with **CREST** when Typhoon Nesat-Pedring hit in early November 2011. It was a trip sponsored by Air Asia. It was encouraging to see God use Air Asia to be a blessing to the nations by bringing relief and medical aid to these suffering ones with their tag "Air Asia Cares". The local partner that we were working with was Metro Manila Ministries (an outreach of Bill Wilson's Metro Ministries, Brooklyn, New York).

With the main objective of giving relief aid to those affected by disasters, our focus was to visit families that lived in dumpsites around Manila and the very infamous Smoky Mountain.

On our second day, we visited one such community that was situated right in the middle of an affluent and well-guarded residential estate dotted with bungalows. It was quite ironic that there are the poor in the midst of these residents. They just need to step out of their balconies and they would be able to get a glimpse of those who are living in deplorable living conditions. Yet, no help was extended to them.

As our local partner began to start their sidewalk Sunday School, all the children from the dumpsite were waiting eagerly to hear the gospel message. These children sat on the open ground with only a plastic sheet spread out under them. There were no complaints about the weather or the conditions, only eager anticipation and joy at their once- a-week session of God's Word.



As I watched the literal transformation not just on her face but in her spirit as well, the Lord impressed upon me and reminded me how significant and powerful His presence is in us. That we are called to be carriers of His presence to a hurting despised and wounded world.

It is only when we share, touch and give that presence out through our lives to a lost world that His light, joy, love and hope can be experienced by those who are in darkness. Just as how this little girl had experienced Him through a simple gesture of having her picture taken and seeing herself through His eyes, let us go out to the nations and bring many more into experiencing Him.

When we step out of our comfort zones and step into their "world", our own world gets changed. It is not about realising just how blessed we are, but to give the blessings that we have received and experienced to GO and MAKE disciples of all nations: a true follower of Jesus Christ is one who extends His Kingdom and shines His light into their "world". For the God of all humanity resides not only in our cities but also in the heart of a dumpsite tucked away in a far corner of the world, all because He died on the cross for them and is their MESSIAH too!

Sidewalk Sunday School in progress.





My first opportunity to join **CREST** on a trip was in 2009 to Manila, Philippines, volunteering for medical relief in areas affected by Typhoon Ketsana. Subsequently, there was a second visit to Manila and then to Pakistan. It is by going on medical relief trips and by attending trainings, both organized by **CREST**, which gave me an understanding of what mission is: its purpose and its biblical basis.

Through each trip, my faith in God had grown. I have learned to trust in Him more and more, experiencing personally how He makes things possible when it seems impossible. He uses incidents and people around us to help us to complete the work of His kingdom. He provides, protects and blesses when we are doing His work. I am blessed for having been given the opportunity to serve God through medical relief trips, using my professional skills for His kingdom and allowing Him to work through me. Indeed I will go on more trips with **CREST** whenever I am able to.

Having met the survivors of natural disasters and seen how vulnerable they are after losing everything they have including their loved ones makes me realized how much we have taken things for granted back in the comfort and security of our homes.

The days in the mission fields, meeting the victims of natural disasters, seeing how vulnerable they were after losing everything they had,

losing their love ones, yet reflecting back home, how we take things for granted in our daily life. How often have we read about natural disasters in other parts of the world bringing loss of human lives and damage and brush it aside? We tell ourselves that someone else will help the survivors, giving the excuse that we have neither the neither expertise nor resources to volunteer for relief work. We **CAN** respond by giving financial support; by mobilizing people or local organizations to come together to work for relief missions; by organizing prayer group to pray for the survivors, for protection and for provisions.

*When "medical relief" is mentioned, many people back off, thinking it is for medical personnel only. How untrue it is. For a medical relief team, non-medical personnel are also needed for the facilitation of medical work. For e.g., organizing, logistics, crowd control, prayers, counseling, etc. I am indeed blessed for being able to join **CREST** in relief work;* for the guidance and wisdom I gained from the trips; for being able to share with fellow sisters and brothers in Christ to encourage them to be involved in the work of Kingdom of GOD.

Happy Anniversary, **CREST**!



1. Waiting area at mobile medical clinic.
2. Rooftop living.
3. Banana boat ride, anyone?
4. A volunteer doing registration, Manila 2010.
5. Local pastor praying for patients.
6. Medical clinic in session, Manila 2009.



Often we open our wardrobe doors and we exclaim, "I have nothing to wear!" Ironically, inside the wardrobe, are piles and piles of clothes that may only see one day of light in their lifetime, perhaps many have been left to waste there - unused or unwanted. In fact, as Malaysians, we are blessed off our socks. I think that many of you, readers may be in the **top 5% of the world population** who enjoy internet connection, own a computer and have good education. These include that which we often take for granted like: clean water, good roads, adequate housing and access to health facilities.



In our small groups sharing, we mentioned that the Yi villagers earn about RMB300 to RMB400 (RM150 to RM200) in a year. One of our friends could not comprehend how one can live with so little. I remember a story narrated by a doctor who was working in Yunnan. In a remote and mountainous area, the women stared blankly at the doctor when he mentioned that they should have at least an egg a week in order to have a healthier pregnancy. Later, he learned that many of them had never eaten a whole egg by themselves before. How much is one egg? 50 sen, which is equivalent to 1 yuan. That will work out be 365 yuan for a year if one takes one egg a day. That is the total income for a family in a year. Hard to believe but it is the truth. In these communities, tears as well as laughter greet a visitor. This seems hard to explain but the will to survive against the odds give meaning to both.

hostess lighted the wick of an oil lamp ... barely bright enough to see one's face and hardly enough to see what was on the plates. But our hostess was generous. She reminded me of the widow with the two mites. She gave all that she had without reservation - rice puffs, chai and a continuous flow of smiles.

By the grace of God, we are now doing what God wants us to do. **It is not our ability but our availability.** No one is qualified; we only need to be qualified by God. The journey was at first frightening, scary and we were not 100% sure. Joyous was 3 years old then. But we know that as expressed in Hebrews 11:6 that it is impossible to please God without faith. In James 5:17, it says that Elijah was a man just like us. Flesh and blood and full of emotion ... anger, fear, etc. All of us are same. At the same starting line. The only difference is that we are willing to step out - one step at a time ... on an adventure with God. It is not that God needs us but He wants us to participate in His Kingdom.

The logical mind says 'I cannot' when we look at our own resources. We have to plan with God's pocket rather than ours. As puny human beings, we want to play safe. We have this saying, "God is so good, life is too short." When I was 10 years of age, I wanted to grow up fast - life was going at 10 miles per hour. When I was 20, life was like 20 miles per hour. Now, I am nearly 50, life is at 50 miles per hour. Some of us maybe reaching speed limit of 70 miles per hour. Life goes very fast when you are nearing the end. There are things that we want to be doing. No one age 95 and in the right frame of mind will want to work harder for a greater degree of security and material success. But all want to input into their families and community, taking more risks, and giving much more time to meaningful causes.



In Philippians 1:21, Paul says "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." We are winners on both accounts. If life were to be exploded on our faces, we would be on the other side. If we live, we live for Christ. No worries - we win on both accounts. As Diana always quips, "The need for you to go is greater than the needs there!" We are so blessed! Let us do something about it!

"He is no one fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." - Jim Elliot, died in Ecuador mission



1. The villagers were attentive despite having had a hard day's work at their farms.
 2. First aid demo in progress.
 3. Practise putting out a fire.
 4. CREST was in Yunnan to conduct a disaster awareness training.



Disaster management has evolved by leaps and bounds to the extent that if we do not keep up with the developments we are likely to be left behind. It takes a team of people from different specialities that can effectively aspire to deliver needs and critical services to those in disaster fields in the most optimal manner. Management, logistics skills, medical services or information technology can all be useful to enhance such deliveries.

CREST is moving beyond mere active emergency response into rehabilitation and reconstruction with the ultimate goal of impacting communities into self dignity and reliance. Incorporating long term goals into emergency response with sustainable development of communities affected by disasters remains our top priority. To achieve this we need the church to join our quest to be more professional, transparent and accountable in our humanitarian actions. New tools, monitoring and self evaluation are employed in this endeavour.

Rehabilitation and community empowerment remains in the background compared to emergency response.

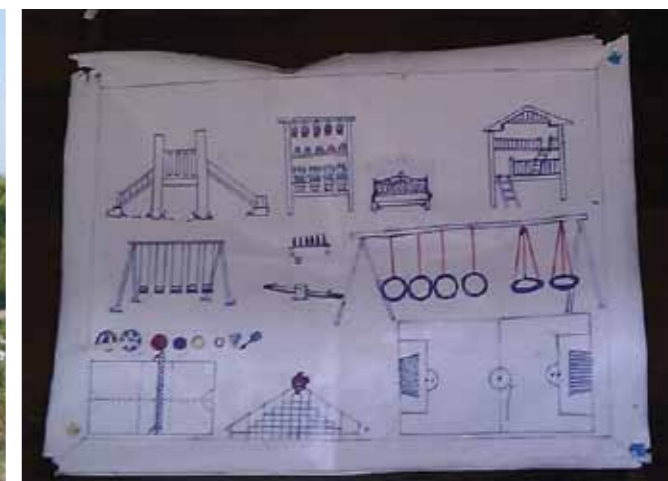
A paradigm shift is needed here. Since 2008 our response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar has slowly evolved from emergency response to nutritional assessment of Karen children employing computer software to evaluate anthropometric measurements. Morbidities amongst those attending our child centres are under study. Currently two centres have been identified for supplementary feeding. In addition needs for latrine facilities has been met according to Sphere humanitarian standards.

I am confident that our Typhoon Haiyan response will remain our long term focus for the needy in Philippines. Their tagline 'roofless, homeless but not hopeless' remains true when Christians worldwide will continue to support and remember them when the rest of the world has long forgotten about their plight.

Six years has gone by since Typhoon Nargis struck Myanmar but **CREST** still stands with our Myanmaese brethren. By God's grace, it will be no different with our Filipino brethren in the Philippines.



Children are the foundation of sustainable development. The early years of life are crucial not only for individual health and physical development, but also for cognitive and social- emotional development. Events in the first few years of life are formative and play a vital role in building human capital, breaking the cycle of poverty, promoting economic productivity, and eliminating social disparities and inequities. The ECDCs are constructed and equipped according to UNICEF standards.



CREST:

Why and where did you go for relief trips with CREST and how did it impact your life?

LEE SIN:

I went to Japan when the tsunami struck in 2011 because I could speak a bit of Japanese and I have the burden for Japan and wanted to help in any way I could to serve the people suffering from the tsunami.

The trips to Japan had impacted me tremendously. I was able to see the real situation and spend time with the people in need. Personally, I was seeking God deeper and earnestly about His direction for my life. After 4 trips to Japan with CREST, I am now serving fulltime in Japan via Operation Mobilisation (OM) since September 2013. I am so thankful to God for giving me the opportunity to work with CREST on a volunteer basis and I am truly appreciative of CREST team for journeying with me on this route. Arigatou Gozaimashita!

CREST:

Would you do something like that again?

LEE SIN:

I would if there is a need where God can use me to serve.



CREST:

What did you learn from the survivors and the poor?

LEE SIN:

I saw a lot of patience and self-control in the survivors.

CREST:

How do you think we should respond to scenes of devastation in the press or media?

LEE SIN:

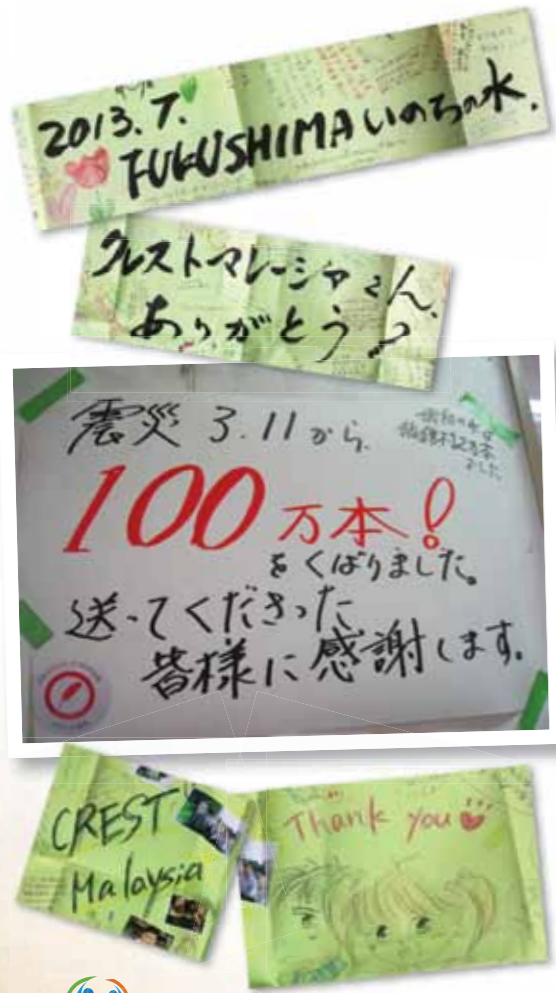
As Christians, we should first go to God in prayer. We can inform churches and individuals who are skilled and also those who have the heart to join in and serve.

CREST:

Do you believe non-medical people as well as medical personnel can join in such efforts?

LEE SIN:

Of course! I have no medical skills! Japan doesn't need foreign medical skills anyway. However, this depends on the area one is going to.



Fukushima Inochino Mizu, a non-profit organization is headed by Pastor Tsuboi. The office in Koriyama (50 km south of Fukushima) is also the distribution centre for safe drinking water. The Water of Life Project provides each child with 72 liters of water each month for drinking and cooking meals. CREST has been sending mineral water from Malaysia on a regular basis.



Fukushima's Voice of a Mother

(<http://www.fukushimainochinomizu.com/index.php?%E6%AF%8D%E8%A6%AA%E3%81%AE%E5%A3%B0>)

"There are about 100,000 children under radiation exposure. If we provide 1 bottle by 1 day, we need 36,500,000 bottles. In this point of view, 1,300,000 bottles which we provided for 2 years are like pouring water on a hot stone. But we desired to send a message, "We're never run out on you". Parents in Fukushima are very in the fear of abandon." - Pastor Tsuboi

"The water we have been receiving has been very helpful. Until now I was stocking up on water when the grocery store would have specials on water, but still spending more than 5000 yen a month. Your staff has done such a good job, even in the cold weather. Children would play together. I was so happy to see that."

"I begin to wither as I think about how long this lifestyle will last, but when I am reminded that there are people here to help, I borrow that strength and I think I can do it. All us mothers in Fukushima want is for our children to grow up healthy."

"I was worried every day for our children when such a thing happened in their growing period. I have somehow been able to live through all this through your support. I will get through this so that someday I too can return this favor to you. Thank you so much."

"Thank you for your hard work on this rainy day. I am glad that my children get to drink safe water. The system here has gotten very efficient with the telephone reservations system. You have done a very good job."

"Today is the first time I've heard about this service. When the disaster happened I was pregnant and also had a 1 year old. I was used to drinking well water in the country, and because I had to escape, I now can't drink the water from my house. For someone who has never had to buy water before, I never thought I'd have to buy that along with clothing for my children. I learned that water is the number one most important thing, and I am so happy to be able to drink safe water."

"Every time I see the piles of cardboard boxes with water, I lower my head and my heart is full. Every bottle of water I receive, we savour at home every day. This thankfulness I have, I will never forget. My heart is strengthened. Thank you."

"At the moment, I am not thinking about evacuating. With reasons like my job, finances... I'm sure the best thing to do is to evacuate, but I have decided to go on living here. So, anything that I can do, I do it all for my children. One of those things is to be cautious about the food and water I feed them so that in the future, there is nothing me or my children will regret. I want to try my best so that my children don't feel disabled because we didn't evacuate. To eat is to live. Please continue to provide water for the children of Fukushima."



Never before in my life have I joined a mission trip and after many days of considering whether I will be able to get days off from work, I decided to give it a go for a 9-day post-Cyclone Nargis trip to the land of Irrawaddy Delta, Myanmar with a team from CREST in 2013. I believed the Lord will make a way in whatever circumstances and hardships. I would not want to stop there after attending a disaster conference held by CREST and decided to put the acquired knowledge into practice. With no regret, this trip has impacted me by opening up my horizon in serving the Lord from a different approach. And I shall say this is not a 'nice to have' trip but a 'must have' trip for me to understand the Lord's will in another sense.

Irrawaddy Delta is a place where few outsiders would pay a visit. In fact, it is not a nice place to visit at all from the tourism perspective. As we traveled into the interior, the road became more and more rugged throughout the 3 hours. We reached the first destination of Pattaw Village after another 3-hour boat ride. I personally felt that it was not an easy journey especially under the hot sun. I thought why do I have to go so far to serve the needy and the poor? Why do we Malaysians go to another country when there are also many post-disaster victims and poor in our country. Disasters not only bring about temporary physical loss to the survivors. Many factors impede them from returning to the life they had lived before the disaster happened. We will do what we can to fill in the gaps using the knowledge and experience we have. We

read and see from the news about the cyclone, it touches us and we cry for them and the empathy will fade away as time passed. But when I see with my own eyes and feel together with them, the empathy and love for them are rooted deep down in my heart and that can never be wiped away easily.

According to FREDA (Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association, Myanmar), 'After Cyclone Nargis, the majority of the people in the cyclone affected areas have to stay in the temporary bamboo huts and tents. Hence there was the need of permanent wooden houses and cyclone shelters in case of occurrence of natural disaster in future.' Houses were blown away by the cyclone, they do not have sufficient fund to rebuild houses and they need support from the government and NGOs. No one can afford another natural disaster to happen and it is definitely unnecessary for them to endure further pain when changes can be made. In the following weeks after Cyclone Nargis hit, CREST was the only team from Malaysia that could enter the disaster scene. No doubt, it was God Almighty who opened the door for us to serve there. Many people did not believe the accuracy of news and media reports and may choose to ignore. But some approached CREST for reliable information and the immediate aid and love from people outside Myanmar were sent to the needy and desperate ones. This is how God makes the impossible to become possible when people are in great anguish.

In this trip, we achieved objectives on visual inspection of the centers and facilities, conducted nutritional assessment of the children, obtained basic learning skills through questionnaires and Participatory Rural Appraisal through dialogue with the ECD committees, parents, elders and pastors. In spite of the goals of health approach we have achieved and to be achieved in future, there is more to be done in this land to facilitate community participation in other essential activities like agriculture for sustainable income generation. All expertise from different fields is most welcome to join hands with us and with the local people to explore the needs and potential growth in the Irrawaddy Delta. We are there, working together with them to help to maximize their ability to live independently in their communities.



Scenes of the Irrawaddy Delta



My mission journey started when God put a burden in me in the year 2006. I was not really sure what God wanted me to do at that time. I began to search and look for an opportunity to get involved in mission work. Through the encouragement and networking of the church mission director, I went for a few mission trips locally and abroad. These have given me the wonderful opportunity to have cross-cultural experiences. One of the most rewarding experiences of my life was to take part in the post-Typhoon Ketsana medical relief trip to Manila, Philippines organized by CREST Malaysia. This trip had given me the opportunity to feel for the less fortunate and also to help them by using knowledge and skills that God had blessed me with. It was truly heartbreaking to see people who are made homeless by the devastating disaster. The incident had affected them not only physically but psychologically and spiritually. I visited a site where a huge bridge had collapsed due to the typhoon and caused a landslide. The impact of the typhoon was great and had caused a lot of suffering. The residents had been relocated due to the severe damage to buildings and infrastructure which had yet to be reconstructed.

What amazed me was their spirit of survival. The survivors must cope not just with the trauma of the disaster, but also with the on-going upheaval in their lives. Understandably, they were concerned about their future. The post-traumatic stress disorder and depression made it difficult to feel hopeful amidst the destruction. I could only empathize with them as I listened to story after story of their traumatizing experiences. I was totally unprepared for this experience as my task was to provide medical relief to the victims. It didn't occur to me that they not only needed treatment for the wounds on their body but also the wounds in their heart. My life was transformed in many ways and my focus in life was then diverted to people in need, especially those who have hidden pain that needs a long journey of recovery.

When asked whether I will continue to go for further disaster relief work after this unexpected experience, my response was of course I will! It was proven when I did a follow up trip to the affected area the following year. I am thankful to have CREST who not only focuses on crisis response to meet the immediate needs of food, water, and shelter. They support far beyond crisis intervention to participate in rebuilding survivors' lives and ultimately transforming their community. CREST made many follow-up visits to ensure programs for psychosocial intervention and eventual development of the community are being



implemented. Having been touched by the outcome of the trip, I could not give myself any reason not to continue to be involved in mission work which can make a difference in peoples' lives.

As a medical personnel in the team, I see that the work or help is beyond boundaries, not limited to those with a medical background. Non-medical people can join in such efforts to make a difference in lives of others. The needs are beyond medical intervention, people of any background with the right spirit are needed. For a start, the best way to help is by supporting relief organizations or agencies to ensure effectiveness and maximize our resources to the best use possible. Together, we can bring new hope to those who face utter desolation as a result of unforeseen circumstances. Disaster relief trips have given me unforgettable and amazing experiences, be it locally or abroad.



Medical Mission for Non-medical People



1. Pack the medicine.
2. Play with the kids.
3. Get shopping list from the doctor.
4. Take patient's temperature.
5. Go shopping for medicine – remember to bargain.

AKNOWLEDGEMENT

We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the following whose support and help have contributed to the success of our anniversary and fund-raising dinner:

Emcee : **Pastor Monti of J-Show
Performing Arts Ministry**

Live Band : **Brandon & Friends**

In Attendance : **Dr. Joanne Yeoh
Josh Lee,
Victor Chua &
Tom Tan of T4C**

Organizations and individuals who have donated generously in cash or kind.

All friends, volunteers and staff of CREST who have worked effortlessly to make this event a memorable one and many others who have helped in one way or another.

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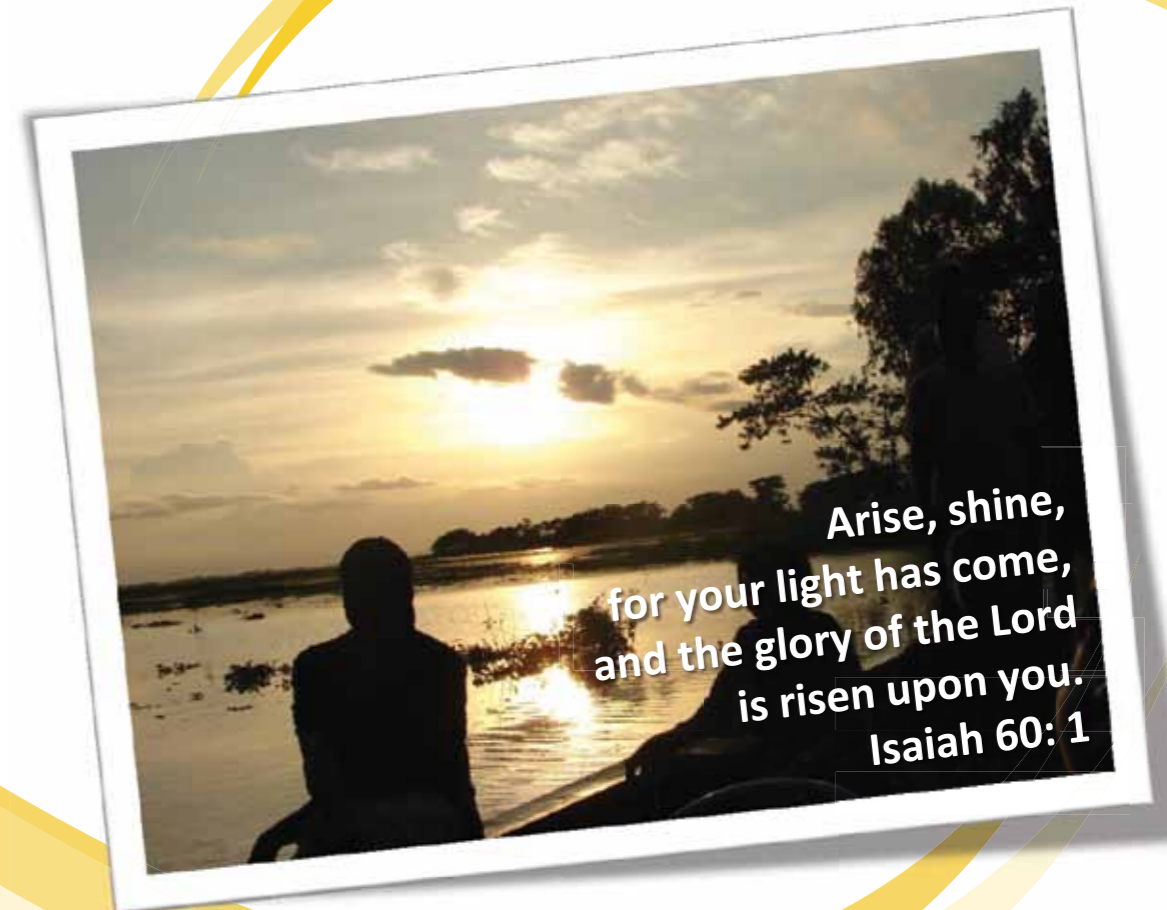
Heartiest Congratulations On Your 15th Anniversary

*... build the old waste places, raise up
foundations of many generations,
repairer of the breach, restorer of the
streets ... Isaiah 58:12*

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Johor Bahru Pastor
Fellowship**

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come, and the glory of the Lord is
risen upon you.
Isaiah 60:1

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Twdor Sdn Bhd has registered in Malaysia since October 2011 as an Information Technology (IT) Consulting company. The word – Twdor has taken from Greek meaning 'A Gift from God'.

We are fully in operation since 1st January 2012 at Klang, Selangor. Our focus is providing appropriate IT solutions for our customers from planning to implementation. We believed prevention is better than cure, delivering our services to our customers will be our priority.



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