



Boats moved across the street from Pago Pago Harbor.



In the village of Pago Pago



The Development Bank of American Samoa



Pua Misa

Many children had already been delivered to school by the school bus when the earthquake occurred. Tia and Pua Misa live near Leone Midkiff Elementary School. A teacher had told a group of children to run to safety because a tsunami was coming. However, she didn't stay with the children. Pua noticed about 20 children, ages 6 to 8, running, frightened and unsure what to do to reach safety. Pua saw their confusion and quickly got the children to come with her to her house. It was on higher ground and should be safe. She told the children to sit down. She got Tia to calm the children down and pray with them while she went in the house and put butter on bread for the children to eat. Then she made some tea for them to drink. After the tsunami finished, she called the parents of the children to let them know their children were safe. We use pre-paid phone cards here. Pua usually buys a \$5 card. However, the night before, she bought two \$5 cards. It took the entire \$10 to call parents.

TAFUNA CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Cross  Cultural Fellowship



Tafuna Church of Christ

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A MOMENT OF SILENCE

As the motorcade approached the village of Leone, the two police motorcycles leading the motorcade turned on their lights and sirens. Men and women, covered from head to toe with the dust, dirt and sweat of cleaning up rubbish, stopped and turned to face the motorcade. Those sitting or kneeling rose to their feet. Wheelbarrows stopped rolling, rakes stopped raking, shovels stopped scooping. The two motorcycles were leading two hearses. Behind the hearses was a long line of cars with their headlines on, though it was only 10:30 in the morning. The two hearses were carrying two children who had been killed by the tsunami only 10 days earlier. People stood in silence as the motorcade passed. The motorcade proceeded slowly through the village eventually arriving at its destination. Soon, the workers quietly, but resolutely returned to their work. It wasn't long until conversations resumed and the sounds of work echoed through the air.

DONATIONS

Last Sunday, the entire contribution collected at the Tafuna Church of Christ was designated for use in the tsunami relief. We normally collect about \$300 each week in our contribution. Last Sunday, over \$900 was collected. What a generous heart the members of the Tafuna church have for those in need.

In addition, donations have been promised from individual and groups and churches in the states, New Zealand and Australia. Today, Lynn and I opened envelopes containing \$1610. This was the first, of what I am sure to be many, checks donated to the relief of those in need in American Samoa.

Donations can be sent to the Tafuna Church of Christ, Box 326, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

THE LOVE OF GOD

David Nelson contacted me from New Zealand shortly after the tsunami hit. He said that some members of the Otomoetai Church of Christ wanted to come and help in the clean-up and rebuilding efforts in American Samoa. Next Thursday, October 15, 13 members of the Otomoetai Church of Christ will be arriving in American Samoa. Their sole goal is to show the love of God to the Samoan people by cleaning and rebuilding anywhere they can be of service. They are coming at their own expense without expecting anything in

return. Even if we tried, we could not adequately express our thanks for what they are going to do. This is truly loving your neighbor as yourself in action.

KEEP PRAYING

One man tells the story of a family that lives in a two-story house near the water in Leone. When the family realized that they could not escape the tsunami, they hurried upstairs and ran to the corner farthest from the water. As they watched the ocean, the man describes the incoming water this way: "It looked like God dipped His hand in the water and lifted it out of the ocean. As He lifted the water out of the ocean, the breath of God blew the water in His hand toward the land." This large wave of water filled the bottom floor of his house and proceeded for some distance beyond his house. As the second wave of the tsunami came toward the house, the father told his family to pray and keep on praying for God to protect them. The second wave was larger than the first and the father was sure this wave would flood the second floor of the house. The family was fervently praying to God for protection. Just as the wave looked like it was going to hit the house, it suddenly fell and split into two waves, going on either side of the house destroying everything in its path, but leaving the house alone. Sometimes, God answers prayers immediately.

Please keep us in your prayers.