

The first page is the original material

MANILA, Philippines; August 2000 – The Philippine Bible Society has distributed Scriptures and relief goods to people made homeless when an avalanche of rubbish engulfed shanty dwellings on the outskirts of Manila.

At least 218 people were killed when the 50 foot (15.5 metres) high mountain of refuse collapsed last month after days of heavy rain. The disaster took place in an area known as Payatas, in Quezon City, part of metropolitan Manila. The rubbish dump itself is ironically known as ‘Lupang Pangako’, ‘The Promised Land’. Thousands of dwellers in makeshift houses on its slopes make a living by reclaiming recyclable materials from the acres of trash.

The Bible Society began its distribution in the immediate aftermath of the avalanche, as the authorities and the Red Cross were still trying to retrieve bodies.

Through donations from church partners and individual supporters, it was able to give out relief goods such as clothing and groceries. Aided by volunteers from the Philippine Wesleyan Church, which is based near the site of the rubbish dump, it also gave out 500 copies of Bible comics, 400 Portions on the theme of God’s promises and about 5,000 Scripture Selections.

The distribution took place at a three-storey school building which had been turned into an evacuation center. One room had become a temporary home for as many as 50 families. The evacuees also included orphans and sole survivors from large families, including one of 12 members.

Arrangements for the distribution were made with Eliza Salazar, a worker from the city’s Social Services office, who was handling incoming donations for the evacuees.

While speaking to Bible Society representatives close to the scene of the disaster, Mrs Salazar had to cover her mouth because of the swarms of flies.

“We really appreciate your help,” she told them. “Thank you for giving these people hope. I’m sure this won’t be the last time I hear of the Philippine Bible Society.” She first came across the Society, she added, while dealing with victims of a fire a few years ago. (336 words – Philippines_111. 18.8.00)

This page is the material after I condensed it and made it more reader-friendly for a web site.

MANILA, Philippines; August 2000—At least 218 people were killed when a 15-metre-high mountain of refuse collapsed in Quezon City, part of metropolitan Manila, after days of heavy rain. The rubbish dump is ironically known as *Lupang Pangako*, “The Promised Land.” Thousands of people living in makeshift houses on its slopes make a living by reclaiming recyclable materials from the acres of trash.

The Philippine Bible Society (PBS) began distribution of Scriptures and relief goods in the immediate aftermath of the avalanche, as the authorities and the Red Cross were still trying to retrieve bodies.

Eliza Salazar, a Manila social services worker who handled incoming donations for the evacuees, thanked Bible Society representatives. Mrs. Salazar had to cover her mouth because of the swarms of flies.

“Thank you for giving these people hope,” she said. “I’m sure this won’t be the last time I hear of the Philippine Bible Society.” She first came across the Society while dealing with victims of a fire a few years ago.

While distributing clothing and groceries donated by church partners and individual supporters, the PBS also gave out 500 copies of Bible comics, 400 portions on the theme of God’s promises and about 5,000 Scripture selections. They were aided by volunteers from the Philippine Wesleyan Church, based near the site of the dump.

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