

Second message from Bro. Antonio López in Tanna, Vanuatu

March 26,2015

Hello,

Again I was able to go to Lenakel, the capital of the island so as to connect to internet thanks to an ONG offering me the connection. I am therefore able to give you some news.

First of all, to all of you, my sincere thanks who have shown interest for me and the brothers of Tanna and Montmartre. A tremendous show of solidarity was created around this disaster. As you can well understand, I do not have the possibility of responding to you personally because I do not have the time even if I'd like to do so. Maybe later on when things return to normal I'll be able to do so... but, it's doing to take time.

Before the scene of desolation in the mission and in the school, the first reaction was that of discouragement considering the tremendous task of reconstruction lying ahead. Humanly speaking and with the lack of means, it seems impossible. Thank God, international solidarity is beginning to be manifested. Yesterday, the French Army came at our school to help us clean up the damage caused by the cyclone. It will be back today to continue to help. Today also, the Ambassador of France to Vanuatu and Brother Robert Laufoalulu, Senator will visit. One of their priorities during this visit is our school, the one that sustained the most damage on the island. For the moment we can't even think of a date when classes can resume. even if we would want to .as soon as possible., To be able to do this, we need to repair the boarding house, the cafeteria and the classrooms, cover them with tarpaulin or similar material, even in a temporary way. We do not know when we'll be able to do it. Our intention, however, is to begin as soon as possible for the benefit of the students, especially those who need to prepare for national exams at the end of the year.

For the community residence, we try to use old corrugated metal sheets damaged by the wind to redo some roofs and to protect ourselves from the rain. We are trying to rebuild our community life slowly but surely.

The task is tiring and I can tell you that by the end of the day, I am absolutely exhausted. Thank God my health is good, only a few scratches. I'm able to rest well from sundown to sunrise. Since we do not have electricity there's not much we can do The three other brothers: Amos, Delphino and Dimitri are also well.

Most of all I need the support of your prayers so that the Lord give us the strength and energy to continue. I like this psalm that I usually pray: "The Lord is my light and salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my refuge, of whom should I be afraid?" And the motto of Vanuatu: "Long God yumi stanap" which means: with God we'll pull through. With the strength of this hope, I leave you.

I don't know when I'll have the opportunity to connect again.

Antonio López García-Nieto

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