



### **Pastor July David and family: A tale of Disaster**

We did not expect September 26 to become a day that we will never forget. We woke early that Saturday and did not notice anything unusual such as strong winds or rain. By 8 to 9 am the rain started pouring and by 10 am we saw some flooding outside our house. Three house more and the flood will reach our house so I hurriedly prepared my family and asked them to help gather our belongings. I had them go to my sister-in-law's house who has a 2nd level. All of a sudden the water had reached inside our house so we rushed to gather as many things as we could.

I told my wife to bring the two smaller kids to her sister's house. She needed to go since she has a wound in her foot and it may get infected. But, she insisted on helping – still the water rose up to my waist and since our inner house is lower, the water there was chest deep. The more it rained the more difficult it became for us to get our belongings up the second floor. Even as my two children were helping, time was catching up with us and the floodwater went higher quicker than we could work. We were able to bring some of our things to the second floor only to see that the water was rising up higher as rain kept pouring harder.

Three steps of the stairs toward the second floor. . . we can see the flood coming. . . catching up with us. Panic started to control my kids as they cried and cried because water reached our knee level where we were in the second story of the house. The worst part was one of my children started to suffer from asthma. I tried to calm her and told her not to panic since that will aggravate the asthma.

My brother-in-law and I thought of ways to save our lives. My brother-in-law took out the window glass cover so we could go out through it. The problem was how would we get up to the

roof since we had children and elderly people. He finally went out to find a ladder which would make it easier for them to climb up to the roof. We decided to wait and not to go up yet since it would be too cold on the roof. We thought of waiting until the water level was really beyond our ability to bear then we would climb up to the roof.

Eventually we started to go up, starting with the older women first followed by the children and then the rest of us. Once we were on the roof, then we realized that all the people in our community were on their roof's already –soaked and cold in the rain. We were all wet and cold and we were there for many hours. The only food that we had were left over cookies and six wet hamburger buns. We made sure all 17 of us were able to get something in our stomach. There were 8 kids – the youngest in our family is 5 years old.

Fear and worry started to grip me as we waited to see what was going to happen. We had nowhere to go if the floodwater kept going up. It is at that point that we seriously prayed and gave everything into God's hands.

While the rain stopped a little bit, the winds blew and that made all of us shiver, even the kids who were asleep. When the dawn came, the water subsided. The older members of the family went down to assess the situation. We were horrified at the site of mud covered belongings. It is unimaginable to see the mess brought by the tragedy. All our clothes are wet and muddied.

I worried very much the school books, uniforms and the studies of my children. How are we going to start again?

Even until now it is difficult for us to sleep since we do not have beds and dry blankets. No shoes, books, utensils and everything. In spite of this we were very thankful that no one was hurt and we are complete. We just appeal for your prayers and assistance especially for the needs of my children as they go back to school. They do not have books, uniforms, or shoes. We are continually cleaning up the mess and all the mud.

**We have nothing right now except for our lives and our hope in the Lord.**