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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES

877 EDSA, West Triangle, Quezon City
Tel No. (02) 426-1729 Email: nationaloffice@uccp.org.ph

DISASTER BULLETIN ALERT

MORE FISHING BOATS DISTRIBUTED IN LEYTE, ANTIQUE

“Now my husband can go out to sea and start fishing again,” a visibly ecstatic Evangeline Josol said, giving a slight nudge on the shoulder of her husband Emiliano.

The couple was one among the many fisherfolks in the fishing village of Cahagnaan in Matalom, Leyte, whose livelihood was damaged by typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. According to Emiliano, after their boat was completely damaged and eventually got lost, like many others, they were not able to go fishing again.

“Now that we have received this fishing boat from the UCCP rehabilitation project, even if the weather today is kind of not good, I will set out to go fishing,” said Emiliano, with profuse happiness written all over his face. “Our family will again have a small but steady source of income for our daily needs.”

More fishing boats were dedicated and turned over to family beneficiaries in various rehabilitation areas in Leyte, Samar and Antique. According to Rev. Jennie Escabal, Conference Minister of UCCP Southern-Western Leyte Confence, the process towards a broader rehabilitation outcome among the ranks of fisherfolks will take a long time to occur, however, the important thing is that the seeds of goodwill to help those who are disadvantaged have already been planted.

“Life is always like that of a boat that continues to sail even if it is being furiously tossed up by the angry sea, “ quipped a fisherman who was attending the dedication ceremony of the fishing boats in Cahagnaan, with obvious reference to a very popular Christian hymn. “God is the source of all our hope and perseverance to move on with our daily life.”

Generally, government efforts towards recovery in the areas devastated by Haiyan in the Visayas remain sluggish and with the estimated economic loss close to Php30 billion the odds are against the most vulnerable sectors for the improvement of their livelihood.

It is estimated that the damage wrought by typhoon Haiyan last year to the fishing sector amounted to Php1.16 billion (www.rappler.com). People from the Visayas region also suffered from shortage of fish and other sea foods in their common fare, given the fact that protein in the dietary requirement of Filipinos 80% of which comes from the country’s edible aquatic resources.



Evangeline and Emiliano Josol went out fishing again after receiving the boat from



Newly minted fishing boats along the shore in Cahagnaan line up for the dedication rites



Rev. Galvez led the dedication rites by giving the blessing to each of the fishing boats

UCCP would like to thank the donors from different partner churches for their support including The United Church of Canada, Global Ministries, United Evangelical Mission, Reformed Church in America, Sign of Hope, Presbyterian Church-USA, United Church of Christ in Japan–Hyogo and many individuals whose hearts abound with God’s gift of generosity.

DECICATION AND TURNOVER CEREMONY OF FISHING BOATS TO FISHERMEN BENEFICIARIES IN LEYTE



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