

# Super Typhoon “Soudelor” Hit Saipan

Dear Friends,

On August 2, 2015 Super Typhoon Soudelor directly hit Saipan. The storm lasted almost eight hours, and during the course of the storm generated sustained winds up to 105 mph and gusts up to 120



mph. The devastation. This has been the worst typhoon to hit Saipan in recent memory. The damage is incalculable. Homes have been destroyed, businesses have shut down, and basic needs are in severe

shortage. The island suffered considerable damage, including damage to our EUCON campus and Christian Bible Church. Our house suffered extensive damage, including the loss of the roof and significant water damage. My mother was injured with huge cut of the broken window glass and was sent to the EMR on the Typhoon night.

Most damaging is the total loss of power.

Soudelor destroyed over 300 power poles, and severely flooded Power-Plant One of Saipan’s aging infrastructure. As a result of the damage, the Commonwealth Utilities



Corporation (CUC), Saipan’s only power company, has shut down power over the entire island. What little power appears is entirely run by generators. Power will take months to restore as well, because there are power lines and transformers lying everywhere. Right in the school yard is an electric pole that snapped because a roof and a tree both fell

on top of it. Restoring power could, literally, kill people at this point. Because there is no power, there is also no water, air-condition (quite necessary on a hot tropical island), and no basic

necessities. Government officials say that it could take as long as 6 months to completely restore power to the island.

There is also a severe gas shortage. The local gas stations are rationing gas, and lines 2-3 miles long are lining up to get their \$20.00 worth of gas, and since gas is \$4.50 a gallon that's not a lot of gas. This is even more of a problem because the generators on the island require gasoline in order to operate.

Drinking water is also a problem. We have enough to last us for a month, but not enough to last as long as the power shortage is projected to continue. Lack of water also means no bathing, no washing clothes, and difficulty in

cooking.

Water

for

drinking and cooking is the priority as of right now.

The most important need that we have right now is for a portable generator. If we can get power up and running, we will be able to hook up water and power for drinking, washing, cooking, and communication. We are planning to continue with our school year as planned, but we need a generator in order to get our classrooms functional for school. Much cleanup for the ministry's facilities are also necessary. Trees need

to be cut, buildings need to be cleaned, walls need to be lifted, and debris needs to be cleared. A portable and energy-efficient generator will be able to provide for the ministry's basic needs until the government can restore power to the island.

Please pray that:

1. The government will be able to quickly and efficiently restore power.
2. The ministry will be able to find a portable generator efficient-enough to restore basic power and necessities.
3. Faculty, staff, and students will be safe as shortages continue, and tempers across the island begin to fray.
4. The ministry will be able to find necessities such as potable water and fuel.

Psalms 29:10-11 says, "**The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King forever. The LORD will bless his people with peace.**" We trust the LORD and understand He is still in control.

God bless.

Gratefully In Christ,

Christian Wei

