



3 STRONG EARTHQUAKES HIT MINDANAO, OCT. 16-31, 2019

Many people were forced to evacuate. Some chose to stay near their houses, for fear that what goods they had left would be stolen. But with danger of



future quakes and landslides, it is not safe for them to remain. Many are now crowded into "evacuation centers" but government assistance is not consistent from place to place, and is inadequate. In some places, the supplies have already begun to run out. In other places, some were given stale rice that could not be eaten. (Photo top rt.: Salvado Parbo visiting an evacuation center)



This scene of a demolished house is repeated many times in many places. The task of repairing or rebuilding their homes has hardly even begun, and will be going on for many weeks and months to come. For now, they find shelter wherever they can. They have also been dealing with rainstorms.



Along with food and medicines, there is a great demand for tent-making materials, but short supply. Our trusted partners, such as Julie Notarte & Salvador Parbo have been purchasing “trapal,” tarp material sold in long rolls which is cut into lengths. Also, PE (polyethylene) insulation is used to make cots. They travel from place to place until they find these materials.



Salvador Parbo, preacher General Santos City



Loving brethren up late cutting "trapals"



Their kids helping with PE insulation used for cots



Note child on cot under tarp. This is “home” for an indefinite period of time.



Grateful brothers & sisters receiving supplies



Rare image in these dark days: a big smile!

Some of the heaviest damage from the first earthquake is in Magsaysay, Davao del Sur. Julie Notarte was there in September and took the group photo below right. He knows them well. Possibly somewhere in this photo is a woman named Arjean Lakay, and her nine-month-old son, Jay Jay.



Arjean and Jay Jay were two of the five fatalities from the first earthquake, October 16. They were killed when a landslide, triggered by the earthquake, covered their house. *(Left: Bodies of Arjean & Jay Jay on bamboo floor)*

The head of Arjean's husband was sticking up just above the rubble, and he pleaded with rescuers to save his wife and baby first. A heart wrenching news video we have seen shows their bodies being pulled from the debris, with rescuers trying to revive Jay Jay. Neither survived, but Arjean's husband was rescued and taken to a hospital.

Local government helped with funeral expenses.



Another landslide



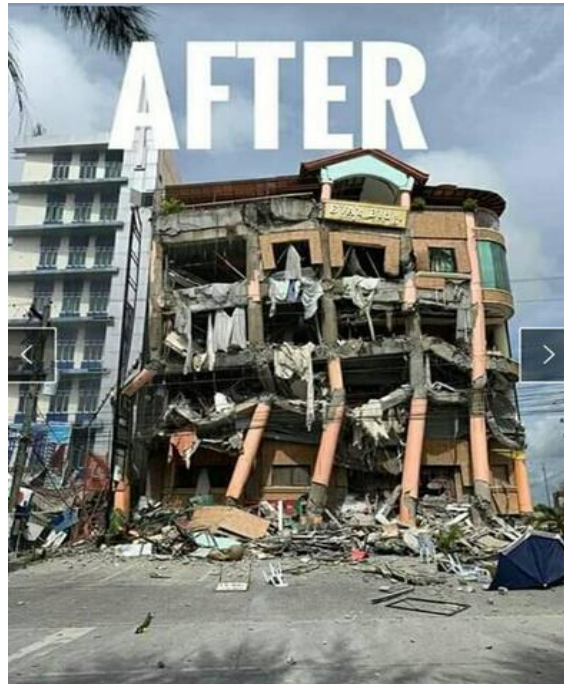
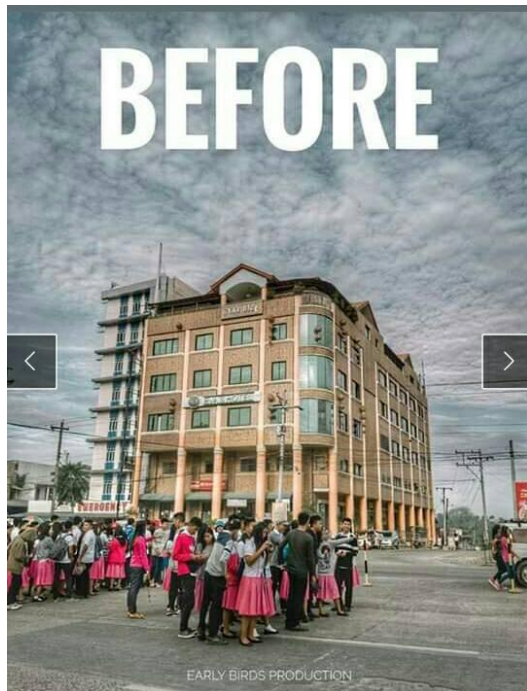


These are some of the most stunning images we have seen of the effects of the first quake. The earth truly did open up, leaving small canyons, deep trenches, & surface cracks all over the landscape, taking out highways and bridges. This often made travel difficult for Julie Notarte and others trying to bring help to these areas. Aftershocks continued for many days, some of them with a magnitude of as much as 5 on the Richter scale. The earth continued to tremble, along with those enduring its wrath.



We received word from Julie Notarte that another person died:

“WE ARE SORRY TO INFORM YOU THAT ONE OF OUR DEAR SISTERS IN CHRIST, SISTER RITA M. PONCE, THE WIDOW OF OUR CO-PREACHER, DIED ON NOVEMBER 01, 2019, DUE TO ALWAYS FRIGHTENED OF THE THREE STRONG EARTHQUAKES & MORE THAN A THOUSAND AFTERSHOCKS SINCE OCT. 16, 2019.”



Former tourist ad: *“Eva's Hotel Kidapawan The perfect Mt. Apo view, delicious local cuisine, the ultimate rooms for comfort and style, heartfelt service, a stylish bathroom and jacuzzi , thoughtful details and all right in the heart of Kidapawan City.”*

“At least 14 people have died after a series of earthquakes rattled the southern Philippines. A 6.5 magnitude quake struck on Thursday morning, local time, in the Tulan area of Cotabato province on the southern island of Mindanao. That jolt came only two days after a deadly 6.6 magnitude quake. The quakes have left 14 people dead and 403 injured, according to a report released Thursday by the country's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). Two people are still missing. There are currently more than 12,000 people sheltering in 19 evacuation centers, and over 2,000 houses have been totally or partly damaged, NDRRMC said. Dramatic images show the impact on Eva's Hotel in the nearby city of Kidapawan. The hotel was devastated after Thursday's quake.” (CNN)



One of many government buildings damaged.

