Tropical Cyclone Nargis hits MYANMAR

Myanmar says cyclone death toll 15,000 and set to rise

SHOCKING NEWS: A tropical Cyclone “Nargis” devastated Myanmar in the early hours of 2nd May with winds of up to 120mph. The death toll continues to rise and is currently estimated to be 22,000 with over 1 million left homeless. International Christian relief agencies have launched immediate humanitarian relief in critical regions of the country.

Geneva, 5 May 2008

The WCC and CCA have received reports from the following ACT members on the situation in Myanmar following Cyclone Nargis.

ACT member Church World Service (CWS) informs us that thousands of people have been killed or are missing in Burma as Tropical Cyclone Nargis lashed the country over the weekend. BBC News reports three-quarters of the structures in the Irrawaddy region were destroyed by fierce winds, rain and storm surges. A United Nations relief worker in Yangon tells the Associated Press that villages in the Irrawaddy Delta have been completely flattened. On Haing-gyi Island, along the country’s southwest coast, an estimated 20,000 homes have been destroyed, leaving at least 90,000 homeless. Profiteering is already starting to grip those coping in the storm’s aftermath, with prices of food, fuel and building supplies shooting up 300 percent. Reports from inside Myanmar indicate that communications throughout Burma have been severely hit. CWS immediate relief operations are underway with a comprehensive assessment on-going. The CWS Asia Regional Office is in direct contact with a partner inside the country.

ACT member Christian Aid (CA) is currently monitoring the situation closely and has set aside an emergency grant for immediate relief once permission has been granted for access to the country. Initial reports indicate the need for essential commodities and shelter materials.

ACT member DanChurchAid (DCA) reports that the damages from cyclone Nargis are visible everywhere in and around Yangon, the capital of Myanmar, with almost 50% of houses flattened. Between 80 to 95 percent of all the houses in the slum areas and in the villages around the capital have been razed to the ground. People are desperate with tens of thousands in need of shelter. Power and water supplies have been disconnected.

Will you help us by joining hands and giving generously. As it is written “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.” Matt 25: 40

Cheques to be made in favour of “Council of Churches of Malaysia”
And to be written “Myanmar Fund” at the back of the cheque

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF MALAYSIA
10 Jalan 11/9 46200 Petaling Jaya Tel: 03-79567092 Fax: 79560353 email: cchurchm@streamyx.com