

FLOODING IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL LITERATURE OFFICE

And other areas at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary

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Silverlinings

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The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

(Psalm 29:10-11 NIV)

The text read, "WMC is flooded."

Wanting to help World Mission Communication in their crisis, I hurriedly dressed and drove to Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS), not knowing that my own office had already flooded.

Early morning on February 28, a weak water pipe joint on the third floor of the main building burst its seam and sent a torrent of water into a nearby stairwell. Water gushed onto the first floor spilling into the areas of the Philippine Field office, the bookstore and an office of APNTS, as well as the Regional Literature office. Winding its way down the stairwell and slowing seeping from the upper walls and floors to the basement, the water flooded offices of World Mission Communication and the Asia-Pacific Regional offices located in Manila.

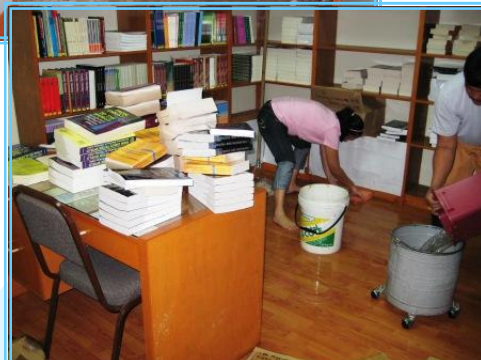
As other faculty and staff arrived on the scene and saw the rescue efforts, they immediately began to help transfer precious items to dry locations. Others began removing the several inches of water with whatever container they could find: dustpans, buckets, and waste baskets. After hearing of the crisis, volunteers from the student body and local churches soon arrived.

Several worked in my office relentlessly mopping and sponging the area even as water continued to seep up between the joints of the wood flooring. Others worked in the APNTS bookstore and in the Philippine Field office.

I am waiting for a technician to inspect the plug that shot out electrical sparks and blackened soot when we unplugged an extension cord. Since my office has no windows, mould is a high concern to me. We are using the air conditioner to remove moisture and a fan to circulate air. The wooden flooring that had been under water has now begun buckling slightly at the joints and may need to be replaced. We are thankful God helped us discover the water problem so early, preventing greater damage at APNTS.



Students and staff worked side by side



Buckets and buckets of water were carried from each office that had wooden floor tiles.



Naomi Phillips decided to hang important papers on lines to dry

Books for Pastors

In a flood, high dollar items can get ruined all at once, even with just an inch of water, for example: carpeting, wallboard, technical equipment, appliances, and furniture may be damaged beyond repair. When our offices flooded, the water wreaked havoc on the Books for Pastors texts. Books in my literature assignment are considered a high dollar item, some costing nearly \$100. On arrival on campus, I discovered over 500 texts were in boxes standing in water in my office, the APNTS bookstore, and the Philippine field office.

Knowing that the Philippine field office had already received an order of Books for Pastors texts, I agreed to replace as many as I could from the dry texts high on my shelves. We exchanged 138 dry books for 138 completely water-damaged Books for Pastors texts. This means that the Filipino students studying for ordination will receive necessary books.



Helen Caparas dries the Books for Pastors texts in the APNTS Bookstore



Only 152 texts of the 500 texts in boxes standing in water have been damaged. These we are still trying to save. While Beverly Gruver helped me dry slightly dampened books in front of fans, Ruth Salangang, our librarian, inventoried the more damaged books. She even made arrangement for some books to be placed in Dr.

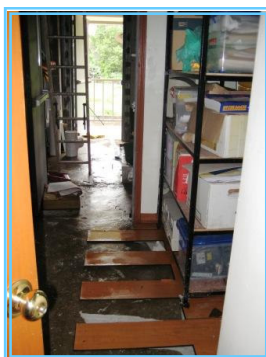


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LeBron Fairbanks freezer. Imagine his surprise when he returns to campus and finds books instead of packages of meat in his freezer. The freezer should protect the books from mildew and further damage until we have time to thaw and clean them.

Ruth transferred other books to a dryer location and also made arrangements for her library archives class to use some books in a restoration project. She made plans to place pieces of paper towels between pages in some books to prevent

PRAYER REQUESTS



Pray for the personnel in the Philippine Field Office. The field office flooded first. The wooden floor panels were pulled up and taken outside to dry in the sun as soon as the water

had been removed; however, they are ruined and new floor tiles are needed. Some equipment was damaged by electrical fire, such as the computer of missionary Lydia Kim.

Pray for World Mission Communications and Asia-Pacific Regional office, Manila center as they inventory the damage to their equipment. Personnel have moved to a temporary site until the floor and carpets are dry. Pray that they will be able to continue on their important projects.

Pray for personnel at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary as they inventory damaged books in their bookstore and estimate damages in the offices. Pray that they will be able to have necessary water pipes repairs completed.

Pray for our volunteers and staff—those who continued to work long hours, combined with emotional and physical exhaustion and thoughts of personal losses, equipment, and files. Pray that they will get plenty of rest and be able to pace the recovery work over a longer period of time. Pray for Missionary Bill Kwon who gave up valuable time needed to work on his dissertation to help with the crisis.

Pray for me as I continue in the next few days to try to save as many water-damaged books as I can. NMI supporters throughout the world have given offerings for Books for Pastors, and we must make sure that we are good stewards of their sacrifices.