



CRWRC

CHRISTIAN REFORMED
WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE

Living Justice, Loving Mercy

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Prayer Requests

- Continued good health
- For partner agencies during current economic crisis
- For the Philippines as we prepare for elections in 2010
- For cultural understanding and patience on both sides
- For skill in telling the local stories

Andrew in the Philippines



February 2009

Rebuilding a Community in Bicol

Three years ago, Typhoon Reming destroyed a thriving community with mud-slides. Thousands were displaced and almost nothing of the old community can be found.



Meeting the local officials in Bicol

But this tale of devastation is not the end of the story. Through the work of one of our partners here in the Philippines, the community is rebuilding. In the wake of the disaster, Operation Compassion came and began working with members of the community. They helped people placed together in a government shelter create a community.

They had them make decisions together and create a vision of life together. They taught leadership and encouraged creativity.

Other organizations hurried to place people in new housing, but Operation Compassion took the time to work with the community to design housing; implementation

of the program was done in collaboration with the community. This creates a powerful sense of ownership and value, as well as treating them as people rather than the objects of aid.

Community Based Ecological Education

Our staff went on retreat to the neighboring island of Palawan. As part of the retreat, we went on the Mangrove swamp paddle-boat tour. The tour is run by locals who help educate others about the unique environment present in a mangrove swamp. On



ECO-TOURISM IN PALAWAN

the tour we saw many of the unique elements, such as the mangrove snake and the incredible variety of birds. Because of local volunteer effort, the oldest swamp in the Philippines is being protected from illegal logging.