



# The Ransom Note

THE RANSOM FAMILY NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB 2009

*“The son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*

## SHORT TERM MISSION TEAM 2009



It was the first day of Year 2009 and already we were on our way to the airport picking up our first mission team from Southern California. Allan and Sandi Luciano from Grace Community Church, along with Pastor Felix Ballon and Michael Gaussein from South Bay Christian Alliance Church, were scheduled in Manila from Jan 1st-10th. They would be going with Sean to Cebu (one of the other islands in the Philippines about an hours flight from Manila) to help teach a module on Bible Interpretation to Filipino ministry leaders there. They spent a few days in Manila first

before going on to Cebu. Sandi and Allan were able to join us in distributing sacks of rice and grocery items to our friends at Manalo Bridge (courtesy of The Almighty through one of our supporters).



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A week after the team returned to the U.S., we had another visitor: Kevin Edwards, the Director of Outreach at Grace Community Church and our mission leader at GMI. He stayed for just a few days on his way to Singapore, but was a tremendous encouragement to Sean even in that short time. Kevin had been a missionary in Russia for



10 years where he also started up a training center. His experience gave him a great deal of insight that Sean eagerly soaked up. This photo was taken when Sean and Kevin met with some of our Filipino partners. From left: Mark Macatangay, Sean, Kevin, Elder James Oh, Pastor Mike Asperin, and Pastor Noel Pabiona.

## Training Ministers on Other Islands in the Philip-

On January 5-9 a team from the Master's Seminary joined my partner Mark Macatangay and me to teach a group of ministers from the Island of Cebu how to study and interpret the Bible. The teaching team consisted of Allan Luciano, graduating student of The Master's Seminary, his wife Sandi, who taught the women a mini-seminar on biblical counseling, and Felix Ballon, the senior pastor of a church in Carson, California, which has a primarily Filipino congregation. Our students in Cebu were local pastors and workers from Compassion International who are currently ministering to poor children throughout the Philippines.

Allan and Sandi went on this short term missions trip to test the waters and see if TMAI-Philippines is where God is calling them to serve. Praise the Lord, just a few days into the trip



Allan Luciano teaching Hermeneutics

they already knew that this is where God was calling them to and what He has prepared them for. They have returned to California so that Allan can finish his last semester at the Master's Seminary, Sandi can complete her work at the Master's College for her Master's in Biblical Counseling, and to raise support so that they can move here and join our team in establishing a Master's Academy associate training center that will focus on expository preaching. We are anxiously awaiting their arrival, Lord willing, in late 2009 or sometime in 2010.

If God puts Allan, Sandi, and this ministry on your heart, then please contact us or the Lucianos directly to see how you can become a part of their support team and send them to the Philippines as soon as possible, so that we can together train and send God's servants to preach God's Word throughout the world.

Our other teacher at the conference was Pastor Felix Ballon. On what the world calls a whim, Pastor Felix was chatting with Alan who invited him to come out during the semester break of The Master's Seminary and join our team to teach the module. In



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Sandi teaching Biblical Counseling to ladies



God's sovereignty, Pastor Felix decided to go, and all of us witnessed God's hand on him as he really spoke into the lives of many men who live in the country that he was born in. He really connected with the ministers at this conference and is now wrestling with how God wants to use him in the Philippines in the coming years. If you didn't know any better, you would think that Pastor Felix never left the Philippines and was ministering among the brothers he grew up with. The sad fact is that there are few men in the Philippines who have the training and experience that he has. Pray with us and him as he considers the possibility of joining our team long term, or coming out here on a regular basis as a visiting professor. In addition to about 3 and a half days of classroom lectures, we gave the students a day and a half to practice applying the principles that we taught using a workshop format. It was fun coaching around 90 pastors and ministers who labored together in an attempt to discover what the authors of various Bible text were saying using the principals of hermeneutics.

We have more modules planned throughout the year as well as plans to return to this group of ministers in Cebu to follow up with more training. Pray that our students will really grasp what we taught them and that they will faithfully apply what they learned in their ministries. Pray also that God would continue to open the doors for us to train others and that we would choose the right opportunities to pursue.



Pastor Felix teaching in Cebu



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Please make checks payable to GMI and write SEAN RANSOM in the memo line.

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## How are The Ransom Kids?

1. Kian is shown here playing rugby . . . and, yes, he did make that goal! (or "try" as they call it in this game). He 's in 10th grade and will be going on a short term mission trip next month.
2. Christian broke his arm playing football! He wore a cast for 3 weeks but is pretty much completely healed now. He is 13 and really growing in the Lord. He's in band, drama, and sports.



3. Tyler began his first day of preschool. He will be starting kindergarten in August. Boy is he excited!
4. Gracie is shown here singing during the Christmas Program at Faith Academy. She is having fun in the 1st grade and is becoming a very fast reader.
5. Isabella is 2 1/2 and is as energetic as ever. She loves her big brothers and sister . . . and they, of course, just adore her.



## Please Pray . . .

- Praise God for the safe arrival of Sean and Pastor Mark Macatangay into LAX to take part in The Shepherd's Conference at Grace Community Church.
- Please pray for travel safety for the Filipino delegates who will be joining Sean and Mark . . . And for God's blessings for a successful conference
- Please pray for Kian as he joins a short term mission trip next month, March 14th-20th. He will be part of a construction team helping to build facilities for an orphanage in Mindanao.
- Pray for God's guidance for Jessica as she seeks His will on how she should serve Him. She is currently enrolled in some of the TMAI courses, but would also like to either resume leading women's bible studies, teaching English as a ministry, or begin serving part time at Faith Academy.