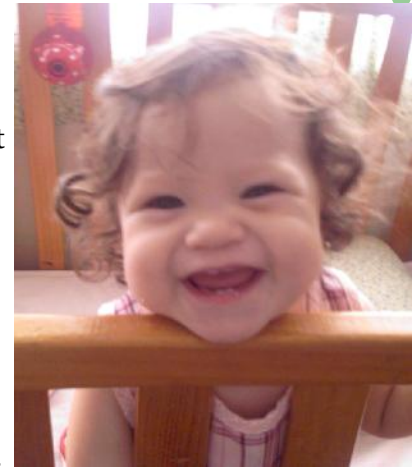




"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Missing my Family while in The States by Sean

Although my trip to California this year was relatively short (25 days), it felt a little long at times because I was without my family. When you think about it, I missed about 10 percent of my daughter Isabella's life. She was about 9 months old at that time, so I missed most of her 10th month. I'm just glad that she didn't start walking or talking while I was gone. Thankfully, I was very busy, which helped to keep my mind off of missing Jess and the kids. The main reason for the trip was to attend a two week residency at Talbot Theological Seminary where I am pursuing a doctorate of ministry in expository preaching. I also had some important meetings concerning the establishing of the Master's Academy International in the Philippines. In my spare time I was working on class assignments and visiting with friends and family. It was a very fruitful trip that will go a long way in sharpening me for ministry.



Little Isabella sprouted two new teeth while I was gone

Got Milk! (By Jessica)

While Sean was in the States, the Lord provided some free milk for our friends at Manalo Bridge. Through our connection with the Philippines office of Evangelism Explosion, we were given hun-



dreds of packages of powdered milk from Anchor, a leading milk company in The Philippines. I took Kian and some of his friends from Faith Academy to help distribute the packets. It was a lot of fun to see our friends blessed.

GRADUATION!

Our two older boys each graduated this summer. Kian just completed Middle School (8th grade) and Christian just graduated from Elementary School.



Christian with his 5th grade teacher, Mr. Kuiken.



Kian with some of his classmates on graduation day.

My Studies at Talbot Seminary



My fellow cohorts at Talbot Seminary, shown with Dr. Kent Edwards (far back in the dark brown shirt) and Dr. Matthews, seated in the center.

(by Sean) While in California, I was a part of a two-week cohort of 12 men, each on a journey to improve his abilities in preaching the Word of God and in training others to do the same. We prepared for six months in advance by doing research, reading about 3,500 pages on preaching, and writing several papers. The class was great because it helped crystallize what I had been studying. At the end of the residency we were given research, writing, and preaching assignments due in December. This residency was the first of three residencies that I need to complete over the next few years. After that I will have up to three years to write my dissertation. Our focus has been on how to accurately and clearly to communicate God's Word in compelling ways to

different people rather than just telling stories to entertain. I believe that what I'm learning at Talbot will compliment what I have learned at the Master's Seminary and give me more to offer the men that I train in the Philippines. The program costs 10 thousand dollars plus books. I thank the Lord that He has already put it on some of your hearts to help me with some of those cost. To date, six thousand has already been given towards this training. If God puts it on your heart to contribute, just drop us an email and let us know, we would be most grateful. I look forward to growing in my ability to preach and to training others here where good preaching is hard to find and desperately needed.

Our Friend Jen . . . a Future Fellow Missionary?



(by Jess) This summer our family has been blessed to have Jennifer Perlich live with us for two months. She is here on a short term mission serving orphans and other children by teaching 2nd grade at a Christian school in an impoverished community. This is her "try out" if you will, to see if The Philippines is where God has her called long term. She knows that she would like to serve God as a missionary, but just where and in what role is still something God is revealing to her. So far, she has learned that teaching elementary kids, especially children who are not accustomed to discipline, is really quite a challenge. Even though it might be tough, I can see that Jen is really cut out for the mission field. She is very adaptable and sticks things through. She hasn't complained about the food (she likes it!), the weather, or even her commute to and from the school. From our house she takes 3 different public vehicles each way: a pedicab, then a short walk to catch a jeepney, then a tricycle for the last leg of the way. She only has a couple of weeks left here, and I know we will really miss her, especially little Grace.



Jen during our Ladies' Bible Study at Manalo Bridge

The Master's Academy International

(by Sean) I had a meeting with Marnie Lacsamana, a TMAI board member, Duane Ulrich, an elder from our home church, and several students or graduates from the Master's Seminary. I spent some time getting to know a couple of the men that I had met for the first time and reconnecting with some other brothers who I had not talked with for a while. I also shared about some of the things that God is doing in the Philippines, and the vision that He has given me for training Filipinos for the ministry and sending them out.

We are praying for 4 to 6 men to live here to be a part of a the TMAI teaching team and for several other men to come to the Philippines to teach two-week modules once a year. I was blessed to see how these men were eager to serve the Lord by helping to train others for ministry. Each of them possess different backgrounds and passions that I believe will compliment each other well and serve as rich resources for the students of TMAI. Pray for these men as they wrestle with how God wants to use them in the Philippines.

Pastor Rick and Two Men From the Bridge in Bible College

At the beginning of this year I invited Pastor Rick to join our ministry at Manalo Bridge. He started by traveling about an hour each way every Sunday to help with our bible study. Once we were able to afford it, he moved to a nearby community so that he could begin to minister daily to our friends there. Pastor Rick has completed about 2 years of bible college, so I encouraged him to finish and he is now enrolled part time.

In the process of building relationships with people under the bridge, we noticed that the desire to learn more about God and to follow Him stood out in a couple of men—Edwin and Oliver. Edwin, who is now in his young 40's, grew up just around the block from the bridge. In fact, he was the third generation of his family to be squatting on this piece of land, until they were forced to relocate when the property was sold by its owner. Over a thousand poor people were living on this large piece of property, but all the homes were bulldozed and today it is a commercial strip mall. Edwin



has been living under Manalo Bridge, walking distance from his previous home, for the last 10 years now. During that time he met his wife Charlene and they now have two daughters. Edwin and Charlene

were one of the first couples I noticed when we started our bible studies. They always welcomed me, took the time to chat, and often offered me some coffee. I can see how much they are enjoying the Word of God and helping others. However, I recently learned that this was not the case in the beginning. Edwin shared with me that at first, he would listen to the bible study only because I was nice, and because he was too embarrassed to shame me by not listening. But, after a while the Word of God grabbed his heart and changed his life. Now he not only goes to our bible study, but he also attends Sunday worship at one of our EFC churches and brings many with him from his community.

Oliver is a recent high school graduate, a brother of Jerwin (mentioned in the article above), and someone who Pastor Rick saw responding to the Word of God. I was so pleased to learn that when Pastor Rick went to register for classes at the Bible College, both Edwin and Oliver enrolled right along with him. With the help of some supporters I was able to buy each of them a MacArthur Study Bible. Jessica and I will also plan to buy them whatever books they need this semester. Still, it will be very hard for Edwin and Oliver to finish school. Oliver can't even afford the money for transportation to school. I'm going to offer to buy him a bike so that he can ride the relatively short distance to school, but his family may not be able to give him up because they need him to work and help them to survive. Likewise Edwin says that he only has about 40 cents a day which he needs to use to send his daughter to school and pay for her expenses. Even with the bible college being free, these men have a lot of challenges to attend. Pray with them and us as we seek God's will for their lives. Also pray for their strength, discipline, motivation, and joy.

Pray that the Eyes of His Heart May be Enlightened

It was a long process, but it was worth the wait. Jerwin may no longer feel the need to let his hair hang down over his right eye now that we were finally able to get a prosthetic eye implanted. His implant was relatively cheap; \$60 plus about \$100 for medications. Although 160 dollars may not be a lot of money for you or I, it is a lot for Jerwin and his family. Perhaps that is why they never dreamed that they could do anything for his damaged eye. His mom earns about 3 dollars a day and at that rate it would take over 50 days of her small earnings to pay for the implant. That makes it basically impossible for her and her four children to survive. Thanks to our supporters, we were able to minister to them by covering their expenses and shuttling him back and forth to the hospital.



The picture on the left is of Jerwin a few months ago after they scraped off several layers of his eye. His eye lids began to drop making it look like he was squinting. Jerwin

was going in almost weekly to prepare his eye for the implant.

They finished Jerwin's eye while I was in California for some studies. Here is a picture that Jessica emailed me of how Jerwin looks today. He even got a haircut!



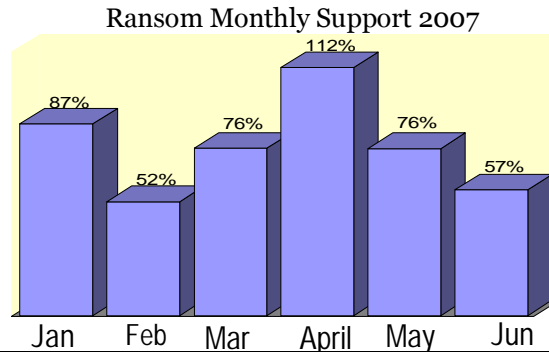
I hope that this will increase his confidence, but more importantly I pray that it will be a testimony of God's love for him and his family. I just learned that Jerwin's brother Oliver wants to start bible college. We are excited and happy to support him through this. I will write more about that later.

Sean and Jessica Ransom
Phone:
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Strata 2000 Bldg, Unit 206
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Metro Manila, Philippines

We are lacking in Support!

The support coming in for us each month is on average at about 85% of the amount set up by our mission. There has only been 1 month this year in which it reached 100%. Please pray for the Lord to build up our Support Team.



Please send any contributions to:

EFCA International Mission
901 East 78th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55420

Please write on the memo line of the check:

Account # M1017—Ransom

We are grateful for your financial and prayer support

Praise Reports and Prayer Requests



1. Praise God for giving Kian the opportunity to serve on a short term mission trip to Mindanao (the southern most island in The Philippines). He was part of a team that helped build an orphanage and did sports evangelism. Pray for lasting fruit.
2. Please continue to pray for our ministry at Manalo Bridge, where there are now several bible studies each week.
3. Praise God for the opportunity to bless children from an orphanage on Tyler's and Grace's birthdays. We picked up all the girls for pizza & cake at our house for Grace's birthday, then the next week, we picked up all the boys for Tyler's birthday!
4. We praise God that it has been 8 months since Tyler's last serious asthma attacks (his last visit to the ER was in January). Please keep him in your prayers as his asthma is starting to act up again now that we are now in the rainy season.
5. Please pray for Gracie as she will start her first day of Kindergarten in a few weeks, with classes starting from 7am to 2pm!
6. Please pray for 3 -Year-old Chariel Barena who has a hole in his heart and will require heart surgery
7. Praise God for Jen Perlich's visit and short term mission work with squatter kids. Pray for God to guide her future.
8. Pray for Sean as he now teaches 60+ students in 3 locations. Praise God for the opportunities to teach his servants.
9. Pray for our students at Baptist Bible College of Asia, where Sean and Jessica are joint teaching. Sean is taking them through a hermeneutics (how to interpret the bible) class and Jessica is helping them to sharpen their English skills.
10. Please also pray for our plans to go on home assignment. We are now in our 4th year and feel directed to spend only 6 months in the states instead of 1 year. Since we need to be in the Philippines next summer, it seems that the best time for us be off the field is the first half of 2008. So... it looks like we will leave the end of December and be home for Christmas!