



The Ransom Note

THE RANSOM FAMILY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009

“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

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IMPORTED FROM THE PHILIPPINES



(by Sean)
Last February 27th through March 8th, I was joined by fourteen Filipino brothers as I visited The States to attend the 2009 TMAI Symposium and The Shepherd's Conference at Grace Community Church. We were treated to wonderful music, fellowship, food and

great teaching from men like John MacArthur, Rick Holland, Steve Lawson, and Al Mohler at The Shepherd's Conference, and from Richard Mayhue, Bill Barrick, Phil Johnson, and Dave Deuel at the TMAI Symposium. Our team was graciously hosted by Marnie and Agnes Lacsamana, who not only provided us with a place to stay, meals and transportation, but they also blessed us with dear fellowship. We spent hours talking with them and sharing about what the Lord is doing in and through us, as well as the dreams and opportunities that The Lord is giving us. Everyone in our group was also given a their own copy of The MacArthur Study Bible.

The men who joined us represented several churches in Manila, one seminary, as well as the training ministries of both World Teach and Biblical Training Center for Pastors. We all stayed in one house which provided for some great time to build our relationships with each other. Oddly enough, I was not the only one who missed



food from California, so in addition to my five trips to Tacos El Oso, we also had a late night run to IHOP, and the not-to-be-missed pilgrimage to In-n-Out Burger.

Chariel's Little Heart Could Take no More (by Sean)

Many of you have been praying for Chariel, a little boy with a heart defect we have been ministering to. With great sadness we share of his passing on Friday, April 17, 2009, just a couple of weeks before his next scheduled appointment at The Philippine Heart Center. He was only five years old and had a pretty rough life. It started with being born into poverty. He literally came into this world in a shanty under a bridge which had no running water, bathroom, or electricity. His parents, Ariel and Charita, barely made enough to eat each day. I can't help but feel a little frustrated because we had worked so hard and were so close to getting his operation. We had jumped through all the hoops that the doctors required, including having all his teeth pulled (which had to be done in the operating room while his heart was monitored), and were just waiting for his heart valves to grow large enough to handle the correction. Still, I do believe that God is in control and that He has ordained each day of our lives. Please pray for Chariel's family, especially for his mother, Charita, who always kept him by her side, even when she worked selling food on the corner. Pray that she will rely completely on The Lord alone for comfort at this time.



Kian's Short Term Mission Trip – Mindanao 2009



In Mid March, our oldest son Kian had the opportunity to serve on his second short term mission trip to the island of Mindanao. He was part of a small team of fellow high school students and teachers who served at a bible camp for orphans. Lord willing, he is planning one more trip later this year.



Kian



Imported from The Philippines



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The Conference was a blessing to all of us in so many ways. Besides the added bonus of getting to chat with John MacArthur and taking a few pictures with him, we were blessed to see how Grace Community Church conducts the yearly Shepherd's Conference. We were all impressed with how over 700 members of Grace Community Church not only volunteered to serve at the



conference, but how many of them said that the conference was a highlight of the year for them. We could see how blessed they were to serve God. Their ministries included helping us to register and find our way around, serving coffee, snacks & meals, setting up and tearing down, cleaning up, and also passing out books. All of us were blessed with at least 20 books and a \$50 gift certificate to use at either the Grace book store or the book store set up specifically for the conference. I think I speak for the whole group in saying that we were all very blessed.



Times are Getting Tough!

Yes, we are feeling it too. The impact of the slow U.S. economy travels across the seas, affecting not only big businesses globally but also missionary families who are serving The Lord all over the world. We are currently under-supported by about 25%, as some of our dear supporters have been personally hurt by the recession. We have also lost some support as a result of our switching mission agencies from the EFCA-IM to GMI. We know that God is faithful to provide for all the needs of his children, and we trust that He already has a plan to take care of this need, as He always has. If God has protected you from this poor economy and placed our family and ministry on your heart, please prayerfully consider joining our monthly support team. You can find the address information for contributions on the upper left corner of page 4 (back page).

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CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE MAILED

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

A Tribute to Sweet Tooth (by Jess)

She really was our very first "baby" nearly 20 years ago. I remember walking into our apartment after a long day of waitressing to find this cute little ball of fur playing in our living room. Sean had brought her home earlier that day, knowing that his new wife (of only a few weeks) had always wanted a kitten. We quickly discovered how much this critter loved candies, cakes, and chocolates, and so Sweet Tooth seemed the perfect name. We later learned that these treats are actually very bad for cats, but thankfully, the little bit she got early on in her life was not enough to do her much harm. She lived for 19 1/2 years, 15 of them giving our family much joy, and the last 4 years she spent being a blessing to Sean's mom, Debbie, after we left for the mission field. From the time I first saw her at 6 weeks old, to the last time I snuggled with her when we visited in 2008, Sweet Tooth has been, and will always be, my favorite cat.



Feb. 1994

Kian waits for an eskimo kiss from Sweet Tooth. He would rub his forehead on her face, and then wait for her to take a turn.

Please Pray . . .

- For Sean's safety during his next travel to The States in early June. He will do the final two-week session of his Doctorate program at Talbot
- For Pastor Weymann Lee and his wife Helen, as they prepare to visit Manila in late June. Pastor Weymann will help Sean teach classes at a Training Conference on the island of Palawan.
- Please pray for this conference, that the students would not only learn a lot but that they would also grow in their hunger to continually become better equipped for the ministry.
- Please pray also for the upcoming visit of The Greene Family. Vincent and Kim will arrive with their 3 children this summer for about a month to see if God would have them serve long term here in The Philippines with us. Vincent will join Sean in teaching some training modules in July in the province of Batangas.