



THE RANSOM NOTE

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reachglobal
Develop. Empower. Release.

"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

Our Long Term Vision is coming to Fruition (by Sean)

Many of you know that our long term vision here in the Philippines is to train men in expository preaching and church planting, so that we can glorify God by sending out trained church planters throughout the world. I am very excited to share that God has recently answered our prayers to launch our training center. With the help of some godly brothers, we have gotten the go-ahead from The Master's Academy International (a training center that is affiliated with The Master's Seminary and John MacArthur) to establish a TMAI training center here in The Philippines. Over the last several months, I have been training a group of about 15 men each week on hermeneutics. These men may be the foundational group for our new training center, and I have learned of a few other groups who are interested to have their men trained as well. I praise God for the partners he has provided us in Manila to help in establishing this center, and am praying for a few other graduates from the Master's Seminary to join our team. I can't wait to see what God does down the road and how he will use us. What a thrill it will be to see a church planting movement take place, as we send out graduates to minister throughout the country and abroad. Please pray that God will work to make all this happen in His perfect timing.



How is Isabella doing?

Isabella is doing great! She is growing so fast and is so cute. Now 6 months old, she is starting to crawl and is pulling herself up to a standing position on her own. She is very chatty (just like her big sister), and she seems to always be smiling. She was blessed to be able to



meet her grandparents (Jessica's folks) for the first time when they came for a visit. She is looking forward to meeting her other grandparents from Sean's side when they visit in the Fall.



Two Boys with Something in Common

In our last newsletter, we shared about how the Lord allowed us to help a little boy named Angelo get surgery for his cleft palate. We also shared about Edrian, a baby born shortly after Angelo's surgery, who turned out to also have a cleft palate. Well, we are so pleased to share that God provided for surgery on Baby Edrian's cleft palate this past February. Here he is shown below (sleeping) just a week after the surgery. You



Angelo, 4 years old, about a month after his 1st surgery



Baby Edrian, (four months old) 1 week after cleft palate surgery.

can still see a scab, but that is no longer there today and he is now fully healed (we hope to take a more recent photo soon). He still has a hole in the roof of his mouth for now, but the doctors say it can be operated on when he is 3 years old. Angelo, shown above, was able to get his 2nd surgery the same week to repair the cleft palate on the inside of his mouth. We will see if he needs any further follow ups as he begins to talk. Please pray that Angelo will now be able to progressively develop in his speech.

God Provides for Jerwin (by Sean)



Jerwin is a 19 year old junior in High School. He is a quiet young man who my oldest son, Kian, made a connection with when he discovered that Jerwin plays the guitar. We met him under Manalo Bridge where he lives with his mother and three of his five siblings. His father died 5 years ago from a heart condition. His mom is supporting the family by

I noticed that Jerwin was blind in one

selling skewers of barbequed meat at an outdoor market. When I first met Jerwin, I noticed that he was blind in one eye. He appears to have no pupil at all, as his right eye is solid white. I suspect that it is just covered by a film. With my limited Tagalog and Jerwin's limited English, I learned that when he was about three months old, he somehow cut or scratched his eye. Then he got some kind of infection that virtually killed the eye. After the initial consultation with the doctor, we learned that his damaged eye cannot be saved. However, it could be improved with a prosthetic eye which would still greatly bless him. Through our connection with Resources for the Blind, we were able to make the arrangements. The cost of the operation (s) would be covered completely (Praise God!). Jessica and I would just have to pay for the medications. Jerwin has been floating in and out of the bible study at the bridge or listening from a distance. I'm praying that between the Lord meeting this need, the teaching of the Word, and an up

coming youth camp that he is planning to attend, that God will touch his heart and that he will receive Jesus as both Lord and savior. I am glad to say that Jerwin's mom has been attending our Bible Studies lately. So far, I have taken Jerwin several times to East Avenue Medical Center. The process is tedious; they need to scrape off layers of his eye over several visits before they can set the prosthetic in place. Please pray for Jerwin through this process, and for the Lord to use this to draw Jerwin to Himself.

Not No... Just Not Now (and Not That Way)

(by jess) I remember my disappointment a couple of years ago. I just couldn't understand why Jen would turn down an opportunity to teach at Faith Academy. Jen Perlich was part of our college ministry back in the states, and a very precious friend, so when I learned that Faith Academy was praying for an art teacher, boy was I excited! Jen had joined us on short term trips to Manila in past and had been impressed by the school that ministers to 800+ missionary kids. It was clear to us that Jen had a heart for missions, a heart for the Philippines, and a heart for teaching. On top of that, Jen was an ART MAJOR! To me, it was a no-brainer. I was so excited to tell her, I even began planning in my head which room in our house she would stay in. Imagine my surprise when she said gently said no. Jen explained that she was really burdened for the poor and wanted to make an impact for Christ serving the really needy children in depressed communities. Teaching at Faith Academy wouldn't fulfill this mission. Reluctantly, I accepted that the Lord had other plans for Jen. But now, I've discovered that God wasn't saying NO to Jen's involvement with Faith. Just not at that time, and not in that way. As it happens, about that same time 2 years ago, God was moving other missionaries at Faith to reach out to a nearby depressed community.



They have since opened a home for Filipino orphans, and just this year launched a school for the orphan kids. When Jen learned about it, she praised God and said "This is exactly the kind of missions work I had been praying for". So now, two years later, Jen will be coming to Manila for a couple of months to serve at The New Faith Family Children's Home and their new school called Quattro Chistian School. Please pray with us for God to raise the needed support for her trip, and that God would make it clear to her if this is where he wants her to serve long term.



Long-Time Co-Laborers

Recently, Jessica became the Business Administrator for our mission field. She is now responsible for our mission's office in Manila and for coordinating the financial aspects of the EFC missionaries here in The Philippines (about 14 missionaries at this time). One of the blessings in this new role is that she gets to work more closely with our two Filipina co-laborers in the office. Beck Milan (on the left) is our accounting secretary, and has been serving our mission for more than 15 years. Helen Calim (on the right) is our legal secretary, and has been helping our missionaries with visa requirements for the past 14 years. These two are dear sisters in the Lord and truly a great blessing to our team.

(by Sean) If I had opened that door three years ago I probably would have jumped at what I saw. The small room greeted me with about a half dozen flying roaches. These were much bigger than the ones I've seen in the U.S., but by now we have come to accept that these critters are just part of the reality here in the Philippines. Pastor Rick, who followed me into the 6'x9' room, didn't even bat an eye. This is the room he had chosen to rent, and he was bringing me here today to check it out.



Pastor Rick had been serving at the bridge with us alongside Pastor Sonny now for the past several months. Up until now, he had been commuting an hour each way to get to the bridge, but was willing to move into the community (even under the bridge, had there been room) so that he could become a part of this group's life and serve them on a daily basis. God used Pastor Rick as our answer to prayer; with the ministry at the bridge growing, I was beginning to see that my friends there needed more attention and training than a one hour bible study each week. So by God's grace, Pastor Rick is now our first church planting pastor. God provided a sponsor for Pastor Rick's rent for the first year, and Jessica and I are giving him a small food and living allowance. I had asked him to look around at the available rooms for rent and let me know when he found one he liked.

Even with its one florescent light, the room seemed kind of dark. The cement floor was uneven, it had a low ceiling, no bathroom and the kitchen consisted of a small 1x2 foot shelf-looking thing that was sticking out of a wall. Attached to the bottom of this shelf was a drain tube that went down and out through a small hole in the wall. I was feeling bad about the question I was about to ask. "Pastor Rick, is this room okay for you then?" I reminded him that our budget allowed for a little better room, but Pastor Rick said that the room would be fine for now. I suspect that one of the reasons that he chose this particular room is not only that it is located just around the block from the bridge, but that it is situated in a large community of squatters. Although it is a relatively small area, maybe a couple of city blocks, there has to be easily a thousand people living there. What a great opportunity for evangelism.



With Pastor Rick living in this community now, I am excited at the possibilities of reaching more for God's kingdom. We plan to have Pastor Rick start another bible study right there by his rented room, as well as yet another bible study in a nearby community. We will also have monthly outreaches like showing the Jesus film and other movies with a projector and a generator that we plan to buy. Pastor Rick and I also plan on training up some of the faithful at the bridge to help us in reaching out to the surrounding communities for Christ.

I paid his first month's rent and a security deposit. We bought him some plates, dishes, cups, eating utensils, a fan, a pot and pan, a gas cooking stove, a foldable foam sleeping mat, and a few plastic chairs with a table. When I asked where the bathroom was located, I learned that he has to share one with four families (probably large families) and that it is located somewhere outside. Even though poverty is all around us in the Philippines, it seems as though many Filipino pastors have become calloused to it, and if given the choice, would prefer to serve under more comfortable circumstances. I am challenged by Pastor Rick's commitment to love those who are harder to love and to go to those who most people are afraid or unwilling to go to. Continue to pray for us, and especially for this brother who is willing to carry his cross daily and to give his life for the sake of the gospel.



A Holly Jolly Bee Christmas

(By Sean)

We have passed by this local fast food restaurant many times over the last couple of years, but we never expected that one day, we would be hosting a party here for people living under the bridge nearby. After several months of bible studies at the bridge, we wanted to bless our friends with a Christmas Party.

We rented out the back room of JOLLY BEE (a fast food chain here bigger than McDonald's), which was within walking distance to their place. This was a special event for them; everyone was showered, dressed up, and some of the ladies were even wearing make-up; a luxury that is sparingly used. Our party started with a few dances from some of the kids. This was followed by a couple of testimonies. My friend Nestor shared how, as a child, he witnessed his father and brother's executions. He went on to live a life of crime until God saved him in prison. Now his life is dedicated to serving



God and sharing the good news of how God had forgiven his many sins and made him a new person inside and out. His testimony really touched this group as many of them could really relate. Then we showed a 10 minute slide show that I had put together for them. They were cheering and laughing as they watched pictures of themselves, family and friends set to popular Filipino music and "Lord I lift your name on high" which they enjoy singing at our bible study. I had arranged for the children to hear bible stories, and I invited my friend pastor Noel Alberto to give a special message for the teens and adults. From Luke chapter one he taught how Jesus came to be born as man while remaining the Son of God so that He could pay for our sins. After a powerful message he invited everyone to pray on their knees and asked those who wanted to receive and follow Jesus to raise their hands. I was blessed to see many respond. Some were praying, some were crying, and all were having a good time. We praise God for bringing many from this group to call on His name.



Praise God for all the work He is doing amongst our friends at Manalo Bridge. We just recently started a ladies bible study lead by Jessica. We were anticipating only 3 or 4 ladies to participate for a start, but we were blessed to see much more than that on the first day. Please pray that this momentum would continue and God would be glorified as we serve Him by serving this community.

Please pray for:

- God to build up our monthly financial support
- Jerwin's eye operations to go smoothly
- Sean as he teaches the 15 pastors each week
- Sean's travel to the US May 26-June 18 to attend his annual 2-week module at Talbot.
- The new cell groups we launched with our Filipino EFC church, Crossroads Fellowship. Pray for God to bless this ministry that Sean is responsible for in our church.
- Sean as he does all the prep work for his Doctorate of Ministry.
- Jess teaching the ladies bible studies at Manalo Bridge. Pray for God to work through her.
- Our friend Jen's upcoming mission trip this summer, for God's provision and guidance.
- God to provide more TMS graduates to join our TMAI Training Center team.
- God's continual protection for our family

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