



Serving a Special Group of People

This month, we were blessed to minister to the Balangao people in the Northern Luzon province of Ifugao. Just 40 years ago, the Balangao were a tribal group of headhunters who believed their lives were controlled by spirits. Today, not only have thousands of Balangao come to know Christ, but God's servants from Balangao are now reaching out to further parts of the Philippines! What happened? The Lord gave them The New Testament in their own language through the translation work of Joanne Shetter. (Praise God for missionaries!) It was such a joy to meet and serve Christian elders and pastors from Balangao. Please read more on page two and check out our website for pictures!



What Happened to the Easter Bunny?

This year Sean had his first opportunity to preach during the Easter Service. He started by asking, "Do you know what they are doing in the States right now? All the children are running around looking for Easter eggs". The chuckles in the congregation indicated that to the Filipinos, this sounded pretty silly. The Easter Bunny doesn't live in The Philippines, and it's probably just as well. Although we admit to enjoying Easter egg hunts with our children, we never did understand what bunnies and eggs have to do with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Easter here in Manila has the same religious feel as Christmas in the States. The whole week of Easter is celebrated as Holy Week, and it is probably the country's biggest holiday (maybe even more so than Christmas). On Good Friday and the days surrounding it, the city of Manila shuts down, including businesses, malls, restaurants, public transportation, even some gas stations. The focus is heavily on the suffering of Christ, with many people re-enacting the crucifixion

of Jesus. Some men even go so far as to be physically nailed to crosses themselves! Sean and I saw this as a great opportunity to reach out. We put up flyers and passed out invitations to people in our neighborhood to join us in our home for a viewing of "The Passion of Christ." We served food and drinks while Sean shared the "why" behind the death of Christ.



Neighbors from our community joined us in our home as we watched the movie, "The Passion of Christ."



Putting Leftovers To Good Use

By Kian

We had a showing of The Passion movie at our house. My Mom made food for everyone and there was lots left over. Mainly there were a lot of ingredients leftover for tuna sandwiches, so the next day we made as many tuna sandwiches as we could. Then my Mom, Christian and I set off in our car to see if we could find people who needed them. First, we found five kids along the road pushing an old wooden wagon trying to find bottles and cans to sell. They were happy to get the sandwiches and we also gave them some gospel tracts for kids. Then I suggested to my Mom that we go to the intersection where there are usually kids begging or selling small items like chewing gum. When we got to the intersection, s u r e e n o u g h , two kids came right up to our window asking for m o n e y . We gave them each a tuna sandwich and a tract, and instantly, they sat down and gratefully began reading their tracts! That made me glad that we went out to do that.



John MacArthur's Grace-To-You Ministry

By Sean

Grace-To-You, the broadcast ministry of John MacArthur, is heard all over the world including the Philippines. Unfortunately, for several reasons the Manila office of GTY was forced to shut down some years ago. Jessica and I were able to visit the office during our STM in 2000 before it closed. Hundreds of pastors and thousands of listeners have been mourning the loss of the office which supplied not only tapes and CDs of John's messages, but also his many books including: The MacArthur Study Bible, The MacArthur New Testament commentaries, The Gospel According to Jesus, and many other books on church, family, theology, and Christian living.

I have been meeting with men here in Manila who desire to reopen the Grace-To-You office once again in order to promote and make available the materials that God has provided through John MacArthur. In order to establish a strong foundation for this valuable ministry, an operational plan is needed and a Board of Directors appointed. Some potential board members include myself, other missionaries, pastors, and businessmen. Pray that God might bring the right men to this Board of Directors, and that He would bless and grow this ministry for the benefit of thousands of Filipinos.



Grachelle, Jessica, and Sean at former Grace-To-You office in Manila

Serving with Grace Bible Church of Arroyo Grande

By Jessica



Last week, we joined the Short Term Mission Team from one of our partner churches, Grace Bible Church of Arroyo Grande. The team consisted of Bob and Carol Turner, Ron Benzer,



McCoy Burgess, Dan Asbell and Nita Griffith. Chuck Guill, our country leader here in the Philippines, also joined us. Together we served at an Elders' Conference in Lamut, where we were met by nearly 300 delegates representing 68 different churches in the Ifugao province. Pastor Doming and Loree Lucassi were our hosts. Sean rotated with the men on the team to teach various topics on Christian growth, while Carol Turner and I spoke to their wives on



what scripture says about being a godly wife and a godly mother. Nita Griffith ministered to the widows, who were really blessed by her. We all spoke through translators, as the delegates spoke 4 different languages! We praise God for allowing us this opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters up north. Not only were Sean and I truly blessed, but so were our children. They were able to interact with Filipino kids of a different culture from the kids in Manila.

Most of the delegates were from Balangao, whose story is recounted in the book "The Word Came with Power" by Joanne Shetler.



Please Pray for . . .

- God to speed up the translation of the Old Testament into the Balangao language.
- The return of Grace-To-You Philippines
- The bible study that meets in our home
- Spiritual growth and protection for our family
- The STM Team from SCC this summer
- Our language study
- More vision for future ministry

SEAN AND JESSICA RANSOM Town and Country Village, #13 Macopa St. B6L5, BGY Mayamot, Antipolo, Rizal 1820, Philippines
U.S. Voice Mail 818-668-2086 Direct Phone 011-632-668-2086 email: ServingHim@RansomReport.com

EFCA International Mission Account # M1017 901 East 78th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55420



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sure enough, two kids came right up to our window asking for money. We gave them each a tuna sandwich and a tract, and instantly, they sat down and gratefully began reading their tracts! That made me glad that we went out to do that.



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