

## **“The Project Philippines”**

### **Sabado Family Newsletter**

**June 2008**

#### **Sponsoring Church:**

Central Church of Christ

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### **WE ARE FINALLY HOME**

Our last day in Lubbock, Texas was filled with mixed emotions. There was sadness in our hearts as we prepare to leave for the airport but we were rejoicing with happiness knowing that in a matter of days we will be reunited with our friends and loved ones in the Philippines. We have prepared ourselves to embark on another journey to spread the good news to the lost in our native land. We thank God for giving us courage and strength to make it through the ups and downs of being faithful servants in His kingdom.

We left Lubbock, TX on the first of June and after almost 48 hours of travel, our last flight for the whole trip landed us safely in Manila (capital of the Philippines). The long ride in the plane was as much pleasure for our daughters as it was exhausting for us. My wife and I are so anxious to land on the Philippine soil while our two daughters seemed to be having fun for most of the trip. We were all very exhausted when we got into the country. It was mid-day, very hot and humid. During our two-day stay in the hotel, we still did not get enough rest. We were wide awake during the night and we were sleeping the whole day. It took us three weeks to adapt ourselves to the normal sleeping pattern. From Manila we traveled down to Leyte, our final destination, and two days after we arrived in Tacloban City, where Project Philippines will be based. It is also Tina's hometown so she was so excited to see all her folks, relatives and friends. We are so grateful to God that He brought us home safe.

Immediately upon our return to Tacloban, we started to look for a house for rent or an apartment so we could set up housekeeping and prepare ourselves for the Project Philippine work. We temporarily stayed in a pensione house (a cheap hotel) while our house searching was under way. Unfortunately one morning as we prepare ourselves for another day of house hunting, Tina accidentally slipped and fell in the bathroom. As she bumped her head into a wall, her left ear was caught in a sharp corner. As a result she suffered a lacerated wound and a bad rupture around the upper portion of her ear that had torn it apart. We rushed her to the

hospital. The doctor advised for an emergency surgery. Good thing she was conscious and she was moving around before and after operation. The doctor said it would take about three months to completely heal the wound. She is still on medication but she is feeling better and is back to normal again. Another good news also is that we found a neat house where we can comfortably stay in the next year or so.

To all those who donated to our medical fund, THANK YOU SO MUCH for your prayers and generosity, we do appreciate it, and may God's blessings be upon you. You are all part of our work in the Philippines by means of your help. My wife plays a big role in our school as she helps me with all the work that I needed to do in the mission. She is my other half, I am helpless without her. We also appreciate the effort of our sponsoring congregation, the Central Church of Christ in Hereford, Texas, for wiring the funds to us.

A couple of days after Tina's accident, the Philippines was battered by one of the strongest typhoons to ever hit the country in twenty years. For several days, there was no water and electricity as many trees and electric posts were toppled down. Many of our brethren who were living in the remote part of Leyte Island like Carigara, Tunga and Alang-Alang were badly affected. They lost not only their homes but also their livelihood as most of them are farmers. The Tacloban church distributed relief goods to them. The typhoon destroyed many properties and claimed many lives. Today many people are grieving for the tragic death of their loved ones in the sinking of one of the biggest passenger ships in the country. Praise be to God that despite all these disasters and tragedies, many people still remain faithful to God.

#### LEYTE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (LCC) BEGINS



The Small Beginnings Christian Nursery, preschool department, formally opened June 16<sup>th</sup> with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. They asked me to preach on the importance of the family to about 70 present in the gathering. It has begun its operation the following day, with three licensed teachers: Chedes Onez, Giselle Belo, and Jessica Bacante. There were 41 children (16 in Nursery 1 and 15 in Nursery 2) who formally enrolled in the nursery school including our 3 ½ daughter, Alet. Having a preschool is another way to reach out to people, and to teach the gospel message. In fact, some parents and their kids have come to church on Sundays for visit. This is very encouraging and we hope and pray that this will continue. People in the community appreciate so much the free school we offer because there are many parents who cannot

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afford to send their kids to nursery schools. We offer not only free tuition but also good quality education that is even more competitive than the others that are expensive.



On the other hand, the Bible School department, which is temporarily using the facilities of the Tacloban church, opened June 23<sup>rd</sup> with a simple program at the church building. I was chosen to be the speaker for this event. The Board of Trustees is chaired by Dominador (Jack) Belo, a 1959 graduate of Abilene Christian University and a respected gospel preacher in the country. There were 17 students who enrolled in the preaching school. They came from various places within and outside the island of Leyte. Two of these students who were first to enroll came as early as May and helped with the construction of the preschool. Currently, classes are being held inside the church building. Students are housed in a dormitory rented by the school. They assigned me to teach Scheme of Redemption and I'm doing my best to teach the class. I'm also handling World History by Johnny Eastep for the meantime. We decided to have 8 classes in a semester in preparation for government accreditation in the future. We plan this school to be an educational institution recognized by the government and it is in our prayers that this college will exist for years and years to come, that it will continue to produce pulpit preachers, church leaders, preachers' wives and missionaries even after we die. Our country has lost the truth of the gospel and it seems like God has abandoned our nation because majority worship the false god. There is a need to touch the hearts of those who are lost that there is hope of salvation and they just need someone who will guide them to the right path. Please continue to pray for this work in the Philippines as we work hard and influence other people with the great story of Christ our Lord. To all our supporters, thank you very much for your continued support. You are the pillars of Project Philippines.

