

THINGS
TO COME
MISSION



Harvest



A GOLDEN OFFERING TO ALMIGHTY GOD

Jun Pielago



Anniversary Reports

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PHILIPPINE
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY
EDITION



The Director's Perspective

Lessons from the Philippines

A common question in relation to the Golden Anniversary celebration is, *What caused the Philippine TCM churches to have such strong growth?* A valid follow-up question: *Is there anything that Grace churches in other countries can emulate to produce the same kind of growth?* Valuable lessons can be learned, and applied contextually to churches in other countries.

A Team of Dedicated Christians

God has ordained that his ministry will be carried out by humans. The knowledge, skill, integrity and spirituality of those chosen individuals will have a direct bearing on the fruit they produce. TCM-Philippines has been blessed with an abundance of godly leaders—men and women, Filipinos and Americans—who have given their lives to accomplish God's purposes for the Philippines. The Andersons and Watkins, pioneer missionaries, were challenged for missionary service through the five missionaries speared to death by the Aca Indians in 1956. They, in turn, each have a child buried in Ozamiz City. "Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?"

Dedication must go beyond devotion to God himself. It must extend to God's people. The early pastors and missionaries registered an organization called *Things to Come Mission, Inc.* in the Philippines. They committed themselves to working together under that one organization. Thousands of people cooperating within one leadership structure gives tremendous benefits, such as Bible schools, building projects, church discipline, ministry focus, encouragement and church planting.

God's Timing

Church growth is often driven by the historical events taking place within a country. Ultimately, Jesus Christ is the Savior and people will only come to him if they sense that they need a savior. For centuries the Philippines

was controlled by the Spanish and their Roman Catholic religion. During World War II, they were overrun by Japan—and subsequently suffered through a horrific three-year occupation which included the Bataan Death March. In 1942 General MacArthur said, "I shall return," and in 1944-1945 he led the U.S. armed forces in driving the Japanese out of the Philippines. On July 4, 1946, the Philippines was granted independence by the United States. Because of these events, American missionaries were welcomed and given an attentive ear. The Filipinos relished their political freedom and the gospel of grace met their need for spiritual freedom from the church laws which could only condemn.

Church growth always has a spiritual chronology which does not fit any human formula. Apostle Paul said, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow" (1 Cor. 3:6). Unfortunately, this concept is used as an excuse to ignore evangelism while waiting for God to act. Note that Step 1 and Step 2 are the responsibility of humans while only Step 3 is God's. The question is, are we ready to plant when and where God calls us to plant? Cambodia, for example, is rapidly opening up as the next Philippines. Who is ready to plant and water?

Focus on Training

International Grace Bible Institute opened within one year of the missionaries' arrival in the Philippines. By then, trained pastors were desperately needed for the 12 young churches. Jesus spent much time training disciples for the time when they would minister without his physical presence. When he sent out 72 disciples in Luke 10, each disciple had been trained with the message and method of his Master. The Pharisees addressed Jesus, *Teacher*, indicating his

most obvious role. Paul, following in the footsteps of the Master, spent much time training others. He expected the same from his trainees, as in his instruction to Timothy, "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Tim. 2:2). The rich blessings of the Word of God must be transmitted through the generations by a purposeful emphasis on training others, whether formally in a Bible school or informally through mentoring relationships.

Vision for Church Growth

In the Philippines, church growth is not optional. To be *Pauline* is to actively participate in evangelism and church planting. One of the basic truths I learned in *Introduction to Church Growth* in seminary was that **church growth must be planned**. Hoping and praying for growth must always be followed up with a pragmatic strategy for growth. The Philippine leaders have always kept a goal for growth before the churches. Director Jun Pielago's article states the goals of the Philippine Grace churches. He repeats these goals in every meeting. Paul wanted his area of ministry to expand. We must desire the same.

The Message of Grace

I end with perhaps the greatest lesson from the Philippine churches—the *Grace message*, that mystery revealed to Paul that Gentiles can now be saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus without the instrumentality of Israel. This message has been the rallying cry of the Philippine churches for the past 50 years—giving them unity and purpose. The theme of the conference was *Preaching Continuously the Mystery*.

Over the past 50 years, literally hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested in the Philippines by TCM and our faithful supporters. Every day the Body of Christ is reaping the rewards of the funds and effort which have been invested. Thank you, our readers, prayer warriors and supporters for making the Golden Anniversary such a blessing. I wish every one of you could have been there. My prayer is that this special edition of the *International Harvest* will give you a taste of what it was like. ✨

A GOLDEN OFFERING TO ALMIGHTY GOD

by Pastor Jun Pielago, Philippines

“Welcome to our 50th TCM Anniversary Celebration!” This powerful, reverberating announcement signaled the colorful opening ceremonies of the four day Celebration held in Ozamiz City, April 22-26. Pioneer missionaries cut the ceremonial ribbon making way for the guests and participants to march in to find their designated places at the decorated platform in the huge anniversary auditorium. Pastor Charley Young, President, Grace Ministries International, a main anniversary speaker, wrote this candid observation: *“Things are going well here at the conference in Ozamiz. It is overwhelming to see the extent of the work here and a blessing to see the honor being given to the pioneer missionaries and the glory being given to God. Over 1,500 delegates were in attendance at the opening ceremony including five minutes of fireworks! It was really some production!”*

Officially registered delegates totaled 1,235! Pastors, workers, missionaries—609; men—130; women—148; young people—311; foreign visitors—37. Over 300 visitors faithfully joined the nightly worship services and special features, all well-prepared musical renditions from various groups representing TCM ministries across the country. The 48 foreign visitors, plus Filipino missionaries, represented Australia,

Brazil, China, United Kingdom, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Indonesia, Cambodia, Australia, and USA.

The motorcade on the day before the conference paraded with trucks, buses, vans, cars, jeeps, and motorcycles, colorful streamers and banners of various delegations; flags of participating countries proudly waved behind traffic police who escorted the spectacular activity through the city.



Registration was a six-step process with a photo ID



EXECOM Committee

EXECOM was formally organized in 2006, responsible for planning, leading, organizing and coordinating all pre, on-site, and post-conference activities. A “kick-off” ceremony met at the 2007 National Conference in Bacolod City for 410 delegates who returned to their homes and churches with an Anniversary-saturated and ignited spirit which produced the unprecedented overflowing attendance. The 50th Anniversary will be recorded in the pages of TCM’s history as one of the most awaited, long-remembered, and prayer-saturated memorable occasions!

Distinguished foreign speakers included Paul M. Sadler, President, Berean Bible Society; Frosty Hansen, President, Grace Gospel Fellowship; Charley Young, President, Grace Ministries International; Joel McGarvey, President, TCM-USA; Ben Anderson, Exec. Director, TCM-USA; and pioneer missionaries Vernon Anderson and Joseph Watkins.

TCM family and friends rejoice before God. After 50 years existence in the Philippines, latest reports show: 431 Grace churches spread over 17 regions with an average membership of 58 individuals each; 65 pioneering areas being prayed to become organized local congregations before 2010. Pastors, Bible women, and teachers who are actively working either assigned or voluntarily under various departments are 407. Supervising Ministers watch over 31 ministry districts ; seven strong departments are directed by dedicated Filipino leaders; nine men make up the Board of Trustees. Four resident Bible schools train an average of 165 students every year; 12 field Bible schools train men and women for local church leadership. These all are milestones the Lord has blessed so far; they are significant factors which help maintain the common ministry goals of TCM, whose Vision-Mission Statement is: *“Things to Come Mission, Inc. endeavors to follow the global ministry concerns of the Apostle Paul as he follows Christ..It envisions to establish a Grace church in every municipality and city in the Philippines, and commits itself to win the lost; edify the saints; plant reproducing Grace churches; and produce committed believers in the teachings of grace whose lives are Christ-like in character.”* ✨



Joy and Victory!

Thoughts from a Graduate - Class of '72

by Pastor Barry Pumphrey, United Kingdom

What a privilege it was to share in the celebrations of TCM Grace Gospel Church of Christ's 50th year Celebrations in the Philippines. I met so many dear friends from 36 years ago, friends who trained as I did



for Christian ministry at International Grace Bible Institute. Some of those men are now leaders in TCM throughout the Philippines.

From 1968 to 1972 the Lord gave me four years to sit alongside students who would become men of God. What a tremendous experience that time was for me! Together we traversed the Scriptures venturing back into Bible times with myriad Bible characters, families and nations. We commenced an adventure we still experience today as we learn that throughout the fabric of Scripture is woven the wonderful, full-and-free salvation message of eternal life through Jesus Christ, the excitement of dispensational approach to Scripture and making sure it is rightly divided. God was teaching us then to become men and women of God who remain faithful in our presentation of Jesus Christ according to the wonderful revelation of the Mystery.

Four years separation from my family was not easy for me, but we cannot outgive God. I handed those four years over to Him to enable my attendance at IGBI but God gave much more back. The lectures in those days were presented by a staff of mainly American missionaries, ably assisted by Pastors Boco, Improso and Panza (and maybe others my memory will not allow me to recall). Those men shared much more than their knowledge as we were taught many practical aspects of ministry alongside them. They and their families became my family for four years as their teaching and illustrations, like the Philippines, became part of my life-blood. When the Lord moved me on and back to the UK in 1972, I have to say that a large chunk of my heart remained in the Philippines—and always will. ☼

**The Word of God will prove its
divine origin by its divine power.
Let's let it loose in the world!**

-John R. W. Stott

by Pastor Peter Kagwi, Kenya

It is always joy to celebrate victory and achievement in life and it was a historic moment for Things To Come Mission worldwide as delegates from different parts of the world landed in Ozamiz City, Philippines, to celebrate God's faithfulness and victory for 50 years. Pastor Justin Muriithi and I received the news of attending the anniversary with a lot of appreciation. The day of departure finally came and we took flight from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya, heading to the Philippines. Our hearts were overwhelmed with joy as delegates from other parts of the country received us in a jovial spirit. We had opportunity to interact with brethren from different regions. It encouraged us to hear how much they have sacrificed for the sake of the gospel. We were privileged to hear strong, challenging messages from all the guest speakers: men of God like Vernon Anderson, Paul Sadler, Frosty Hansen, Ben Anderson, Joe Watkins and Joel McGarvey blessed us and nourished our souls.

Successful growth for the Philippine Grace Churches is a result of fruitful ministry. The TCM pioneering missionaries were remembered for their sacrifice and commitment of spreading the Gospel of Grace to Filipinos who owned the pioneers' vision and partnered with them. The latest survey shows more than 400 churches which means between 8 and 10 churches are being planted every year: a very encouraging growth rate. It is my prayer that we in Kenya—in Africa at large—can emulate the Filipinos' strategies of church growth. ☼

"A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES"

by Ariel D. Mahilum, Cambodia

The Lord gave us this command, "I have placed you here as a light for the Gentiles. You are to take the saving power of God to people everywhere on earth" (Acts 13:47 CEV). This passage holds a deeper meaning for me since I stepped into Missions and know that it is God's desire for us His people to obey His mandate to be a light for the Gentiles and to take His saving power to people everywhere on earth. Serving the Lord as a missionary is a great privilege but it's not cheap—there is a cost to pay in stepping out from my comfort zone: leaving behind family, friends and the people God has given me the opportunity to serve and love, to name a few.

My greatest motivation is knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of the universe, came down to seek me, a lost, impoverished man with no hope and future. Yes, Jesus loves me and He wants me to tell the world about His love. The events in my life were appointed by God as preparation: product of a broken home, a former drug user, the black sheep of the family, full of bitterness, hurting and insignificance. But Jesus loved me and saved me and called me to serve Him and He is telling me through His word to love the people that He died for by telling them about Him, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the Creator and Savior of all people.

Jesus' desire for us is to go to all the people in the world and share about God's greatest gift of all! It is the core message of Missions. My family is here in Cambodia to share: not just the teaching of Jesus, but Jesus Himself, to the Cambodians and to the surrounding Gentile nations. I thank the Lord for many people who love the Lord Jesus, our co-members of Christ's Body who partner with us in our missionary endeavors. Let's make ourselves available for the Lord, continue to pray, support and even go. Let's join hands to serve our Lord and fulfill His desire to win the whole world back to Himself. Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). ☀



We Walked the Aisle Again...

by John & Janet Shriver, Australia

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the Philippines. It was such a memory-filled experience as we walked the aisle again where we were married, visited with our wedding party, saw some of our barrio friends and ate *siopao* and *halo halo* again. The entire experience was like a gigantic family reunion. Our memory for names left something to be desired and our Cebuano was quite mixed up but it was wonderful.

Though we are not missionaries now with Things To Come Mission we were welcomed as family with open arms. We were especially thrilled to see what the Filipino workers have been and are continuing to do since we left the Philippines. One of the best decisions TCM ever made was to turn the work over to the Filipino workers. They have done a tremendous job and the ministry has grown above and beyond what our minds could comprehend as ever possible.

Most of the current leaders of Things To Come Mission in the Philippines were our students in the Bible Institute, and as we sat under their leadership at the 50th Anniversary it was awesome that God allowed us to see some of the fruit of the two missionary terms we served there. It was all just a little taste of Heaven! ☀



MY HEART BREAKS FOR THESE PEOPLE

by Emily Ferwerda, Germany

For the past three years I have been studying at Moody Bible Institute in pursuit of someday going to the mission field. As I pursue the dream and passion that the Lord has laid on my heart, I have the privilege of spending the upcoming summer months working as an intern overseas with Things to Come Mission in conjunction with my education at Moody. Last summer God opened the doors for me to go to Kenya on the *Africa Safari* and confirmed my desire and joy in pursuing work in the mission field. The Lord has provided me with the new and exciting prospect of serving in the Kingdom of Cambodia this summer.

I will be flying to Phnom Penh, capital city of Cambodia, June 9, and will be working and learning for seven weeks. I will be living and working with the Ariel and Faith Mahilum, their daughter Pauline, and the eight Cambodian university students who live with them. These seven weeks will be spent with an intense schedule of ministry six days a week:

- Orphanage
- Community Development
- Evangelism & Discipleship
- Church Planting

It is unbelievable how much of a passion the Lord has already given me for the almost 14 million people living in Cambodia. Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the world and the majority of the population is Buddhist. My heart breaks for these people who



do not know of the ultimate hope in life. I have such a great desire for the people of all tribes and nations to learn of the grace of the Savior Jesus Christ who gives me hope every day. ☀

A Taste of the Philippines



Verna Maraas and Ledith Improso sing a Swahili song with Pastor Peter Kagwi on the drum. Andrea, Josiah and Kelly help.



Eunice Heath and son Dave at the dedication of Heath Library at IGBI. William Heath procured many books for the libraries and Grace pastors during his 19 years as a TCM missionary in the Philippines.



Travel in the Philippines still requires boat travel, just as in the early days. Fifteen visitors rode the overnight boat from Cebu to Ozamiz.



The 19 Filipino missionaries and children were honored with certificates. They also had opportunities to set up displays and to present their ministries to the conference.



TCM Board President Joel McGarvey attended with wife Susan. Joel is the Director of Bible Doctrines to Live By. The TCM Board put forth time, energy and finances to help the conference to be a blessing for believers around the world.



The Philippines

- 85 million people
- Over 7000 islands
- 400 years Spanish rule
- Family is important
- 431 Grace churches
- 63 church plants
- 4 resident Bible schools
- 12 field Bible schools



Director Ben Anderson shares a light-hearted moment with the Filipino missionary men. The Philippines is a leading missionary-sending country.





Pastor Bernardo Ballares received recognition as the oldest Grace pastor in the Philippines. He is 91 years old and has preached the Grace message from the beginning.



Pastor Frosty Hansen, President of Grace Gospel Fellowship, was a speaker at one of the main evening sessions. This was the first time Frosty and Cathy traveled to Asia. Frosty has said that this trip and conference were one of the highlights of his life.



Vernon & Darlene Anderson and Joseph & Pauline Watkins arrived in the Philippines in 1958, as pioneer missionaries for TCM. They were honored for their faithful service.



The foreigners were blessed to meet with Pastor Noel and Annabel Maquiling. About a year ago, funds were raised in the USA for Annabel to have heart valve replacement.



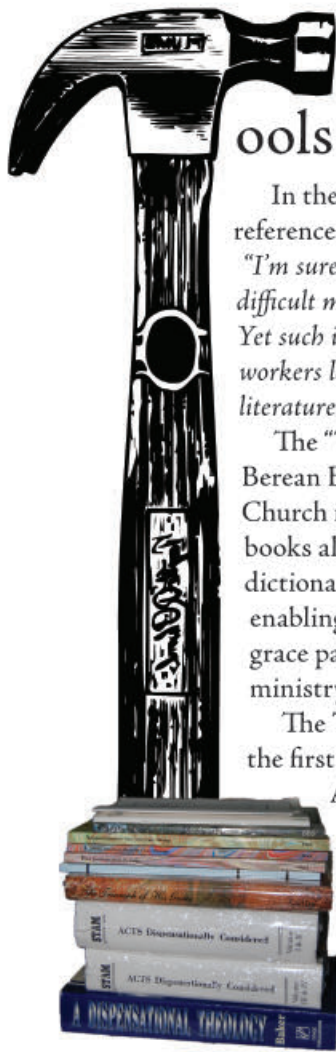
The four International Grace Bible Institute Campuses graduated 36 students this year, many of whom will become pastors and Bible women with the Grace churches.

Pastor Paul Sadler, President of Berean Bible Society, challenged the conference attendees during one of the evening meetings. Here Paul is giving the dedication message for the Anderson-Watkins Building and the Heath Library.



Pastor Charley Young, President of Grace Ministries International, makes a point during the Sunday service at Tambulig Grace Gospel Church. His wife Jan was along for the trip. The Youngs have previously ministered in the Philippines for several months.





Tools for God's Workmen

by Kevin Dickey, Colorado

In the April 2005 edition of *The Berean Searchlight*, Pastor Ricky Kurth noted the lack of available grace reference materials for Filipino pastors:

"I'm sure that I speak for grace pastors and Bible teachers everywhere when I say that I cannot imagine how difficult my teaching ministry would have been without the solid foundation provided by these precious volumes. Yet such is the challenge faced by hundreds of grace pastors in the Philippines. Not only do some of these diligent workers lack basic reference books ... often their bookshelves are also bereft of some of the basic dispensational literature penned by the pioneers of the grace movement."

The "TOOLS" ministry represents our attempt to meet this need. With heavily discounted books from Berean Bible Society, Grace Publications, and Parson's Publishing, along with free resources from Grace Bible Church in Fort Worth—we have created a 33-volume library of key grace reference books along with a few general reference works such as a concordance and Bible dictionary. Vernon and Darlene Anderson at TCM help with boxing and mailing, enabling these reference materials to be sent out to any overseas, English-speaking grace pastor who requests the literature and provides a testimony of his own ministry.

The TOOLS library is divided into three parts. To date almost 200 sets of the first installment of the library have been delivered to pastors in Southeast Asia, Africa, Brazil and England. At the recent 50th Anniversary of TCM Philippines, nearly 150 copies of the second installment of the library were delivered to extremely appreciative pastors.

The apostle Paul admonished his son in the faith, Timothy: *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also"* (2 Timothy 2:2). Our objective for TOOLS for GOD'S WORKMEN is providing Biblical reference tools for willing workers. ✨



Vital Encouragement...

by Margaret Riccobono, Louisiana

Things to Come Mission, Inc.'s 50th Anniversary in the Philippines was an experience not soon to be forgotten. The conference was exactly the type of encouragement with connections vital to me as I prepare to step into full-time missions. The people I met were invaluable in giving advice to a *greenhorn* like myself. The missionaries were able to not only share the joys and sacrifices of missions work, but were also able to point out specific areas in my life to keep in prayer. Those are areas where I will be especially vulnerable when living in a foreign country. The opportunity to speak with so many who have walked the path on which I am about to embark was priceless.

I have experienced a few short term missions trips, and before going to this conference I felt pretty prepared. But this experience was very different than any of my other trips. From my previous trips, I had become comfortable not showering for days, eating things that you don't even want to know what's in it, and playing with smelly, smiley street kids. So having to wear skirts to a large conference where I would meet board members and founders was a little unnerving and a growth experience for me. (Although even on this trip there were certain food items I didn't ask about either! 😊) But on no other trip have I felt the encouragement and building up of my missionary calling, like I have from the Philippines.

To be able to see the result of missions done right was amazing. To be able to see the mass of human gain that the Lord has done in fifty years through a couple of ordinary people was breathtaking. To interact with lives that the Lord has touched through a few faithful servants was a privilege I thought I would have to wait for heaven to experience. It was an honor to be a part of such a memorable part of TCM's History. ✨



CELEBRATING WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE



by Joyce Anderson, Indiana

I was eager to be in Ozamiz City to attend the festivities for the 50th anniversary of ministry of Things to Come Mission in the Philippines. Over 1000 people from every corner of the Philippines and about 50 visitors and delegates from the countries of Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Brazil, Cambodia, Indonesia, China, Australia, the UK and the USA traveled to be a part of the four-day celebration. Most of the Filipino visitors slept at Maningcol Grace Gospel Church. This is also where everyone registered for the conference, ate their meals, visited, and had afternoon seminars. In the evenings the meetings were held at the nearby botanical gardens and the attendance increased to 1500 people.

We arrived on the day the conference began and hundreds of people needed to get registered. James Tan introduced himself and shared that he and his family along with several church members traveled from Manila to Ozamiz to attend the conference. He had transported the camera equipment and computers for the registration process. He showed me the unfinished Sunday school rooms where most of the people were sleeping on bunk beds and pointed out that many were sleeping three and four to a bed.

Women and men were busy cooking for hundreds of people, setting up places to eat, and continually washing dishes so more people could eat. Sister Deb Pielago was one of many people working long and hard each day—all the while sick with fever.

Despite the discomfort of traveling far, sleeping in difficult circumstances and working hard, these people really wanted to be at this conference. I think their joy of seeing one another and celebrating how the Lord has worked in people's lives and established many churches and Bible schools made it all worth it.

There were hundreds of people to meet and it was a joy to put faces with the names of people I knew of and prayed for. Pastor Cadelina, who has worked with the youth across the Philippines with tremendous fervor for 29 years, passed the responsibility of National Youth Director to Pastor Joed Amlon. Pastor Noel Maquiling traveled with five youth from his church to the conference on two motorcycles for eleven hours. His wife, Annabel Maquiling, who underwent open-heart surgery last year, is strong and radiant. It was a blessing to meet pastors, leaders, Bible women, lay leaders, students, graduates, young and old who were together rejoicing and remembering what the Lord has done.

As I met people and saw their labor, dedication, excitement and expectation, I thought back to two years ago at the Leader's Workshop in Indonesia where Pastors Jun Pielago and Gerson Bermejo met with Ben Anderson to present him with their vision to have a celebration to commemorate what the Lord had done in the Philippines since the first missionaries arrived in 1958. It takes a lot of planning to put together such a huge celebration and these men along with so many others worked, planned and prayed for this day to arrive.

Why was this anniversary celebration important?

It was important to remember what the Lord has done in the Philippines and how he has used dedicated men and women who love God and people and are committed to sharing his love and the wonderful message of God's grace. Remembering the great things God has done gave the conference special meaning. Nevertheless, everyone I talked to was not satisfied, but was looking ahead to how to effectively bring more people to Jesus Christ and to train people in Bible knowledge and godly living.

People worked hard to come together to celebrate what the Lord has done. They are expectant of what he is continuing to do in the Philippines and beyond. I hope everyone will take note of what has happened in the Philippines and will continue to pray and work hard to see more people come to know God. ✨



SIDANG RAYA XIII - INDONESIA BLESSINGS



The North Sulawesi Governor's Auditorium echoed with a 40 member Youth Choir singing jubilantly Handel's *Alleluia Chorus*, to open the official conference for the Gereja Alkitab Anugerah (Grace Bible Church) on April 29. Overhead projectors broadcast the gospel for all to read. Many musical groups sang for the glory of God. Testimonies and gospel preaching added to the festivities. Two small boys sang a tribal song bringing joyful clapping. April 30-May 4 all delegates met for planning and strategy for GAA to spread across the Indonesian archipelago. Sixty congregations and opening fields were represented and voting brought a new Chairman, Pastor Marthen Kambey, following Pastor Ruddy Akay's eight years of service. New officers will take up duties

in June. Enthusiasm was great at Bapak Vernon Anderson's appearance and sermons to inspire the workers to persevere strongly by working together in evangelism and church planting. The Andersons started out in Manado, Indonesia, in 1973, teaching high school and college students who now serve the churches. TCM Director Ben Anderson and Darlene Anderson also attended and proclaimed that Indonesian hospitality was definitely a priority for this official gathering. The Sunday closing was cheerful and tearful, the fellowship wondrous ... heavenly!

We ask you to pray for Brother Ruddy Akay as he submits to medical treatment for his feet and legs. He has been very faithful in the Jakarta office and traveling the islands. ✨

Touchdown Thailand

"Now in Chiang Mai! Trusting God to work out our student visa, finding a reasonable house."

May 27th this memorable email reached the TCM Office. Genesis and Verna Maraat landed in Chiang Mai (northwest Thailand) for Andrea and Josiah to undergo evaluation tests for entry into the school where they will attend while Mom and Dad begin Thai language study. The tests took over three hours and the kids felt exhausted ... but they passed! It means Milestone One has happened for the Thailand Outreach.

Next Milestone: June 4th the Nathan Killion Family left the TCM apartment in Indianapolis heading west for deputation, then northeast for conferences, getting ready for their entry into Chiang Mai, Thailand. Their ticket date: December 8. PRAY!!

What an **INSPIRATION**

by Pastor Stephens Thobela, South Africa

Since returning from the 50th Anniversary Conference, I visited our churches in South Africa: Kempton Park in Pastor Dean's church, then Cape Town, and last week in Mpumalanga. In all instances I started off by sharing with them about our visit to the Philippines with the phrase: "What an inspiration!" It has been given a new meaning in all those talks.

What an inspiration it was to be among so many Grace Believers. To meet fellow-believers one has never known, and those one has not seen in years, besides standing out because of color and physical body features but knowing you are spiritually one! To fellowship and worship God with people of the same mind as oneself. But I guess most inspiring was to see what God has accomplished using two individuals and their families to change so many lives. Each message I listened to or heard of through others touched me deeply, and I can say the same for my wife Linah. Since our return we spent many hours reflecting on this journey as to what was the Lord's purpose for us in it. Seeing what has been accomplished in the Philippines suddenly opened our spiritual eyes: What can be accomplished in South Africa? We have always had a deep passion for the work of the Lord, yet after many years of labor with 'minimal success' one does get weary!

Thanks to God for this awakening! We can never thank the Lord enough—not only for what He has done in the Philippines, but for what HE now continues to do round the world through the Filipinos. And also for affording all of us who were there an opportunity to witness this wonderful work. It has been by far one of the most inspiring things in my and my wife's lives as Grace believers. ✨



FOLLOWING ON

■ GOMER & NENE INDINO are getting ready to return to southern Brazil from the Philippines after visiting home and family. Their visitors visa was recently okayed enabling them to pass through USA to meet friends and sponsors on their way to Brazil. Their schedule for meetings will be available soon.

■ MYRA OMICTIN, featured as our China ministry person in the last IH, is now reassigned to be part of the TCM Cambodia Team. Myra traveled to Phnom Penh for several weeks to see the potential of working with the Mahilums. She requested to be a member of their team rather than working alone in China. She continues to challenge others for China as well.

■ THE TCM OFFICE is enjoying the new Minolta C451 digital copier,

scanner, fax machine installed in May. We look forward to new quantities of literature for missions.

■ BROTHER RICK HASH of Rootstown, Ohio, needs your prayer and attention as he has been recently diagnosed with cancer demanding much radiation and chemo. His email: rhash@neo.rr.com. We all appreciate Rick as a faithful board member of TCM.

■ LUZ GADDI continues in Uganda, E. Africa, awaiting the return of the Carlo Pañas from the Philippines. Luz will accept the invitation from Kenya leaders to come teach Sunday School teachers in their country also as Christian Ed is her expertise.

■ DIRECTOR BEN ANDERSON and Randy Brown (BBI grad) flew out

on June 11 to England for the annual Cloverley Hall Conference near Birmingham. They met contacts who also received the TOOLS sets and are interested in Grace truth. United Kingdom represents a special mission field due to all the nations and religions moving in from around the world.

■ TCM will be represented at the BBF and GGF CONFERENCES in Indiana (June 14-19) and Boston (July 1-4). See you there!

■ During the 50th Anniversary in the Philippines, INTERVIEWS WITH FOUR APPLICANTS raised hopes for more personnel to expand the Asia Outreach. Prayer and planning is important at this phase while men and women are undergoing intercultural preparation. ✨

THINGS TO COME MISSION



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Things to Come Mission prepares people for Jesus Christ's return through the methods of the Apostle Paul. We accomplish this goal by sending missionaries to evangelize, plant churches and train leaders on six continents. Our financial support comes from free will gifts of churches and individuals. Donations may be sent payable to "Things to Come Mission." TCM will disburse gifts as they are designated. Occasionally, a designated gift is sent for a project which is complete, in which case TCM will use the gift for a similar purpose. As a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization, TCM issues tax-deductible receipts for all donations.

A Gift to Remember

Things to Come Mission wants to acknowledge gifts which have been given in memory of a loved one.

Edward Laux

- Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Townsend

Russell Tunks

- George & Linda Geibl
- Dean & Frances Oldson

HOSPITALITY

by Valerie Anderson, Central Asia

I've arrived back in Indianapolis, unpacked my suitcase, and turned in my car, which must mean I am "home"... at least until July 14 when I fly off to my other "home" in Turkey. What amazes me is how very "at home" I have felt throughout this year—despite traveling through 30 different states and sleeping in 97 different beds! I have been so richly blessed by the hospitality extended to me by both old friends and new!

What does *hospitality* mean? Webster defines it: "The act or practice of receiving and entertaining strangers or guests without reward, or with kind and generous liberality." Although hospitality is not a common sermon topic, Paul told the Roman believers to be "given to hospitality" (Rom. 12:13). He also instructed Timothy and Titus that hospitality should be characteristic of a bishop or overseer of the church. When Peter wrote to believers about loving one another, he admonished them to "show hospitality to one another without grudging or grumbling" (1 Pet. 4:9).

What does hospitality look like? As I reflect on this year, "hospitality" evokes cherished memories of people who opened their homes for me to spend the night, whether that meant sleeping on the couch in a studio apartment, or in a queen-sized bed in an elegant villa. I think of people who took me out for dinner at a favorite restaurant or invited me for a home-cooked meal (even if they'd "never had a missionary over before" and felt quite anxious about that—hopefully it was a sufficiently non-threatening experience that they'll risk trying it again)! I think of people who took time off work in order to spend time with me, or who took me with them to work and introduced me to their world. I think of people who toured me around special places, and people who included me in their family activities. I think of people showing me such extra kindnesses as turning down my sheets at night, leaving chocolates on my pillow or filling my car with gas. In every memory, what I think of most is conversations: people sharing their hearts and listening to my heart.

By sad contrast, a friend wrote recently, "I feel so useless and unimportant here. At a church service the other morning I lingered around the coffee machine to see if anyone would bother to talk to me. Several people did manage to give me a passing hello, but otherwise I was totally ignored—sort of like 'the Invisible Man.'"

Ultimately hospitality is about people making other people feel "at home." The Biblical word and its roots mean: to be friendly to one, to wish him well; to associate familiarly with one; a companion; one who receives and entertains another hospitably—one with whom he stays or lodges, a host (*Thayer's Greek Definitions*). What a precious gift hospitality is! I feel so privileged and deeply grateful for the hospitality people have lavished on me! ☼





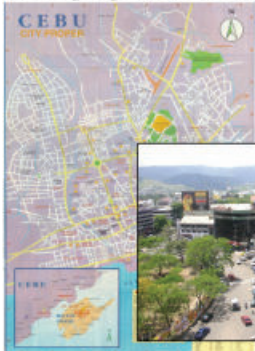
How can I help?

3 COUNTRIES
PROJECTS

SOUTHEAST ASIA PHILIPPINES

Cebu City Office Building

TCM-Philippines is in great need of their own headquarters building in Cebu, the centrally-located, second largest city. Currently TCM-Philippines is renting a very small apartment which doubles as an apartment for the director. TCM would like to stand with our faithful Filipino brothers and sisters by raising \$50,000 toward the purchase and construction of the TCM Headquarters in Cebu City. With proper facilities, we believe the



Philippine Grace churches can double in the next ten years.



AFRICA ALL COUNTRIES



All Africa Grace Fellowship

Pastor Ken Parker of Church-Mission Link will be conducting a Church Growth Dynamics seminar in Malawi in August 2008. This seminar will build on the Leadership Conference held in Zambia in 2004 with GMI and TCM. The Uganda field was established because of the challenge at that conference. Leaders on TCM fields in Kenya, South Africa and Uganda can benefit by participating in this seminar. Transportation and expenses will be \$300 for each of the six TCM African leaders.

SOUTH AMERICA BRAZIL

Online Bible Training

Brazil is the world's fifth most populous country. TCM leaders in Brazil are introducing a new Bible training program on the internet which can be used throughout the country. Urian Rios writes, "The greatest advantage of having a website is that we would be able to reach out to many people all over the Portuguese-speaking world. We also have people who have attended Grace churches spread all over Brazil. Setup costs for the website are \$500."



Coming the Summer of 2009. Two ways to serve!

Africa Safari
Kenya

Asia Adventure
Cambodia

Stay tuned for more details.

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