

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."

Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)



Winter Philippine Report

Christmas 2005

News on where the Lord has led us recently

Family News

In October we made a quickly-planned trip to the US for nine days. This allowed us to attend the wedding of our youngest daughter Kristy to Dennis Osbekoff. It was a small, private wedding on Sunday, October 16th at the home of dear friends. We are happy to welcome Dennis to our family. He comes from Sitka, Alaska, where his parents live. Dennis and Kristy are living in Los Angeles where Dennis is an FAA certified mechanic for an aircraft maintenance shop at the Santa Monica airport.



While we were in California for those brief days we also reconnected with daughter Barb, her husband Paul, and three of our grandchildren, Dominic, Michaela, and Isabelle (Grandchildren #1, #2, & #4). They are in the US for a short furlough from their ministry in South Africa.

We stayed with son Hal, his wife Angela, and their two children. We visited the school of grandchild #3, Chloe, and ate Hawaiian barbecue, highly recommended by Camden, grandchild #5.

We also made our first-time acquaintance with grandchild #6, Aiden, Sheri and Chris' little boy. He has hazel eyes and Grandmother Lola's auburn



hair. We celebrated his first birthday while we were there. So our nine days in the US was very busy but a wonderful time to reconnect with kids and grandkids.

Mindanao News

About two weeks after our US trip, we flew to Mindanao for Sally to visit the school at our Nasuli center. The school there has ten students this year, from five different countries! Sally had meetings with the parents of each of the students and each member of the school staff plus the Nasuli Center Administrator. The future of the school is a big question in Sally's mind as the number of center residents changes. It appears now that there may be only two or three students using the school building next year, all of them home-schooled.

Koronadal Blaan News

After four very busy days at Nasuli we flew in a small single-engine plane down to General Santos City where we spent three days with Pastor Cuma Saya and his family. We were once again greatly moved by the simple lives of dedication this family demonstrates. One of our goals while we were there was to locate and visit a



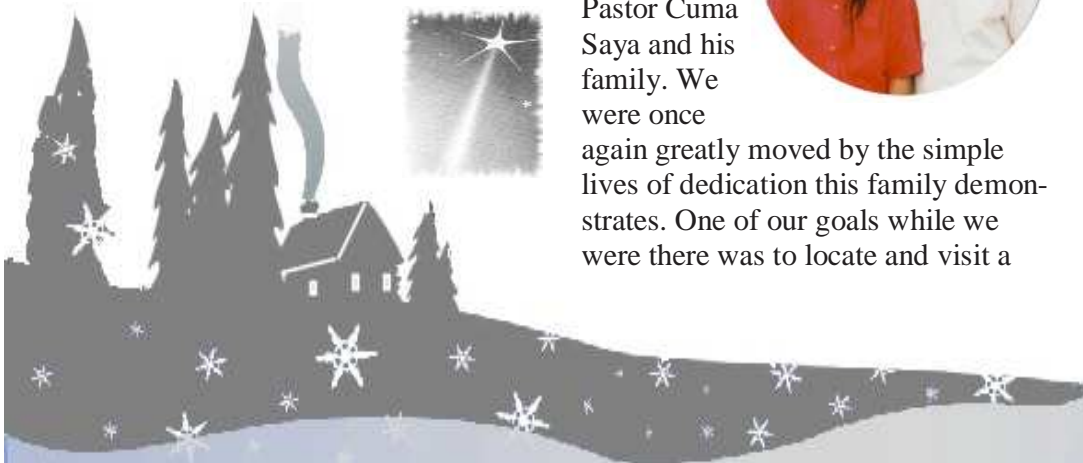
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Praise 'n Prayer

- Praise for Leon's successful surgery in Manila to relieve trigger thumb.
- Praise for the marriage of our youngest daughter Kristy to Dennis.
- Praise for the added blessing of seeing all our children and grandchildren during our too-short stay in the US.
- Praise for a good school year. Sally is grateful for the deeply committed staff God has brought together.
- Praise for all those who are working together to bring about the reprint of the Blaan hymnal.
- Begin praying with us for teachers for the 2006-2007 school year.
- It's not too early to begin praying for our biennial Branch Conference in June, 2006. There are many details that will involve nearly everyone. We'll give more information as we receive it later on.



printing house that could print the Blaan hymnal. We were pleased to find one run by a Christian businessman who gave us a good price estimate. We hope we can submit the book early in 2006. With the funds we have in hand we hope to be able to print close to 2,500 copies. The churches are crying for hymnbooks so we expect these will sell quickly. Pastor Cuma is hoping to promote the sale of the Koronadal Blaan New Testament along with the hymnals.

We also had Pastor Cuma's cell phone repaired so we can be in better touch with him. And we bought two goats for our other former translation helper, Filu Bandos. By purchasing a pair of goats, we are providing a livelihood for this godly man who serves the Lord faithfully as a lay pastor and promoter of Scripture use in Blaan.



Bagabag News

We are glad to be back home and settled once again in Bagabag. Now that December is right around the corner, Sally's life is busy with the coming school Christmas play. She has a number of big projects on the back burner, too, like writing a school handbook, researching evaluation methods for kindergarten readiness, and her on-going challenge of continuing education requirements.

Leon is working at three positions: branch webmaster, Publications Department manager for Bagabag, and overseer of the Book Depository. He stays busy around the house, too, keeping our aging computer system working. We are hoping it makes it to furlough time in 2007. As soon as the keyboarded Blaan hymns come to us via e-mail attachments Leon will go into high gear getting them typeset and printed in photo-ready form that we can send to the printing house in General Santos City.

We enjoy our ministries but manage to stay way too busy at times. We try to take a two-mile walk daily, when the weather permits it. Around the house Sally is chief cook while Leon humbly and happily takes the role of bottle [dish]-washer. We make our Saturday morning shopping trip a 'date' for us as we leave the Bagabag Center and drive 25 minutes to Solano to restock and enjoy breakfast out. Otherwise we stick pretty close to home.

Christmas News

Christmas is really big news, but the headlines are over 2,000 years old. Yet they are still fresh copy. The story is told the world around of the Christ Child and of the angels, shepherds, an overcrowded inn, of a stable, and a feeding trough where He was first laid to sleep after Mary gave Him birth.

Sally has written a Christmas play—her second—for the school children to put on before the Christmas

break. In her play, an old shepherd and an old innkeeper remember the events of their youth when the shepherd was told by the angels to go and find the Baby in a stable. The play ends with:

Old Shepherd: In many ways he looked like any little baby. But there was something about him that made us know he was not an ordinary baby. We were drawn to him and knew we had to worship him.

Old Innkeeper: I looked in to see what was happening. That's when I knew something very important was happening there. How often do people kneel down and worship a baby?

Old Shepherd: You do know who that baby was, don't you?

Old Innkeeper: Well, some people said it was the Messiah. I have always wondered if it was true. Was it that fellow Jesus that came around teaching and claiming to be the messiah? The one the Romans put to death?

Old Shepherd: It was indeed. His teaching was so unusual and unlike anything I'd ever heard before. I heard him speak many times. I believe what he said was true, that he was the Messiah, the Son of God.

Old Innkeeper: You are quite sure, aren't you?

Old Shepherd: Yes. I am. That Child born in the stable behind your inn was God's gift to us, His Son, our Messiah.

Then everyone sings "There is a Redeemer"

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
2. Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.
3. When I stand in glory I will see His face,
and there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

Chorus: Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

(words & music by Melody Green)

What will the Lord have for us in the year ahead? Some will let worry rule, but that is not to be the attitude of the believer and follower of Jesus Christ. We can trust Him to lead us to a glorious end. (Jude 24-25)

With Christmas joy,

Leon Sally

Leon & Sally



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