



Christmas 2008

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

—Charles Wesley, 1744

The JAARS Center has been our destination numerous times since the mid-1970s, in most cases to receive training that better equipped us for service in the Philippines. In all these times we've never lived here long term nor have we experienced the winter season. That is changing. Barely a month before Christmas 2008, we are seeing morning temperatures in the low 20s, too cold for folks who are still somewhat adapted to the warm tropics. We've bought our first ever electric blanket to save on night-time heating costs.



The colorful fall leaves that have been so lovely to behold are now coloring our pathways. They are a reminder that Christmas and the celebration of our Lord's first advent is near at hand. We rejoice!

We think back to the many Christmases in the Philippines, surrounded by coconut palms and mahogany trees, and hearing, as early as September, Christmas music in stores. We had to be careful about leaving holiday cookies out lest an army of ants attack them. We also remember Christmases a long time ago that we spent with Blaen believers. The excitement of the annual church Christmas program is as keen to them as it is to us.

In 2007 on our last visit to Pastor Cuma and Lydia's house in southern Mindanao, we noticed their grandson JR

was playing with some Matchbox cars. We know that they are not commonly found in the Philippines so we asked about them. It seems that JR had received an Operation Christmas Child box from the US. The cars were two of a number of things. We asked what else he got. Four toothbrushes, just enough for the family. Marbles that he shared with his cousin. Crayons that he gave to a neighbor, and on and on. It seems that JR had been blessed, and at the age of five, he in turn blessed others by sharing the good things he received.



Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Go to www.samaritanspurse.org for details.

This year, we had lots of fun buying items and then packing a few of these boxes for collection through our church. On December 12th, Leon and some men from the IT department at JAARS are going to Charlotte to an OCC collection center. They will work for a few hours with others preparing the boxes for shipment overseas. It's a great joy for us to participate in this ministry to children, all the more because we know one recipient personally.



PRAISE 'N PRAYER

- **Praise God.** We can report, after receiving an e-mail from Pastor Cuma Saya, that his hand has healed to the point that he's back doing New Testament distribution and driving himself on his off-road motorcycle.
- **Praise** that the aviation safety lights for the antenna tower were successfully changed. And this was done without a hitch. Also give thanks for the long history of JAARS aviation safety and for the pilots and mechanics who put forth their best.
- **Pray** for the 5th graders Sally is teaching. The Christmas programs are coming up with the extra work involved. The point is to honor Christ and proclaim the Christmas story. The student's excitement can create a distraction from classroom work.

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2008 from Leon & Sally Winter

When does a light bulb burn out? Now there's a question that dates back to Thomas Edison. Of course the answer is, "when it happens."

One of the larger structures that belongs to the IT Wireless dept. where I work at JAARS, is a 90 foot telescoping antenna tower used for HF communication. Since there is also a large aviation program operating on the JAARS Center, we have to be careful about poking things up into the sky.



In the day time, the antenna tower is quite visible, but at night it could be missed by a pilot approaching the JAARS landing strip. Thus we

have two bright red lights that come on at sunset and go off at sunrise. When these light bulbs burn out, as is expected occasionally, we waste no time in getting them replaced.

This is somewhat involved with the use of a manlift machine once the tower is lowered to about 20 feet. The first check was on whether the photo sensor mounted on a platform at 20 feet was still working



okay. My job was to check that the light control circuit was working, and since it was functioning properly, my boss, Bill, and another man, Gerry, used the manlift to change the burned out bulbs.

Christmas is beginning to happen for Sally's 5th grade students. Fifth grade is given the major speaking and singing parts in a big Christmas musical, which means a lot of time is devoted to rehearsals. This is something Sally is used to, since the school at Bagabag in the Philippines did the same thing every year. In the midst of all the rehearsals, Sally is trying to squeeze in some science lessons. Just now the students are learning about light, both heavenly and earthly.



Dear family and friends,

Thinking about the lights that burn brightly atop the JAARS radio tower, reminds us of a special time when some lowly shepherds saw bright lights above the earth. But these bright objects were not of the earth. *And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, ... suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"* (Lu 2:9a., 13-14)

We are privileged to again celebrate that blessed night when God sent His Son to be born of a virgin that He might work His plan to save us.

Likewise, we count it a privilege to add another year of service. It's a joy to express our thanks to each one of our team. For those who wrote encouraging words, for those who prayed us through, and for those who helped us meet our financial needs. Thank you!

Peace in our Savior Jesus,

Leon & Sally

See the **color** version of our letter by going to:
www.trinitynh.org/mis-winter.htm

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