



# Winter Philippine Report

## June-July 2006

### *The Light of the Word is the Light of the World*

#### **“It’s Like Daylight...”**

Earlier this year we shared with you our desire to see Pastor Cuma Saya and his family have electricity in their home. Rev. Saya is the pastor who does the distribution of the Koronadal Blaan New Testament and now the Blaan hymnal. Until now they have had an extension cord running out the window of their house over to the neighbor’s house, paying to enjoy two overhead light bulbs and their radio-cassette player. If the neighbor couldn’t pay their power bill Cuma and Lydia lost their lights. So we began to pray that perhaps we could help them. We asked for help and people gave generously.



*Cuma & Lydia at their power meter*

It was interesting that when WBT released the funds to us and we sent them to Cuma, the amount we expected had changed. We learned that, in the past month, an additional substantial cost was added on (a permit fee to the city engineer’s office.) By the time this was discovered Cuma had already bought the materials and contracted with an electrician to do the installation. Cuma, disappointed about this additional large fee, contacted us. As only God can plan things, some

additional money had been sent in which covered the fee.

Finally one evening Cuma and Lydia called to tell us that lights were in and working. Cuma’s words were precious, “It’s like daylight in our house!”



*Fuse box for new electric service*

*[The child pictured is Cuma and Lydia’s grandson—Leon’s namesake—Cyril Leon Saraña, born last November.]*



*One of the six new electric lights*

**Thank you** to all who helped with this project! Cuma has asked us specifically to thank all those who prayed and gave to make this possible.

#### **At the Other End of the Country**

This summer the Isnag people of the northern Philippines, 900 miles north of the Blaan people, received a greater source of light. The revised New Testament plus Genesis and Exodus was dedicated in June. A spiritual awakening is happening among the Isnag speakers. People from the ‘mother

*(Continued on page 2)*



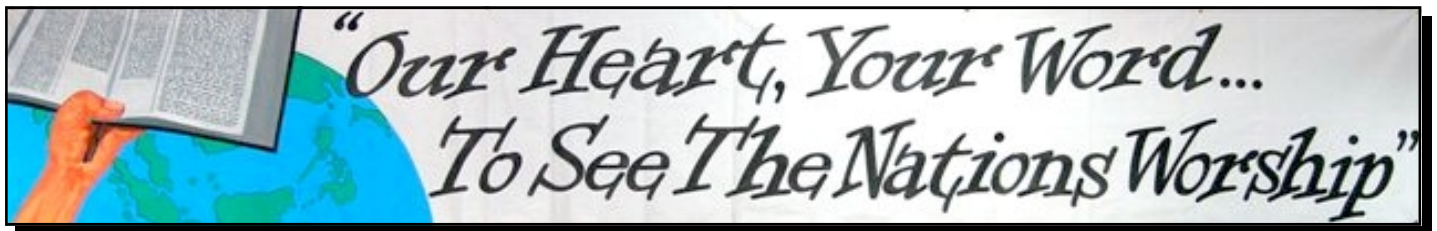
#### **Praise ‘n Prayer**

*Praise:*

- For good health. Sometimes we are amazed at how healthy we remain. To be wise at our age, we’ve arranged for physicals in July.
- For people who stand with us. When we get the list of people who send financial support we always stop to thank God for each one. We include those not listed who pray with power for us. We are humbled by your faithfulness.

*Prayer:*

- For focus on the ‘bottom line’ of our work: transformed lives by the Word of God. It is easy to get bogged down on the daily pressures of our jobs and forget about what God is doing.
- It is not too soon to start praying about some of our furlough needs. We will be looking to find a reliable, economical car to take us on our cross-country travels.
- For our replacements here as we leave next year—a principal for the school and a webmaster for the SIL Philippines website.



church' are beginning to move out to other communities to begin new churches. On a weekend this past April, young people of the village went on a camping trip that turned into a revival time for them.

### Church and State

Back down in Blaan country, something happened recently that would not happen in the western world today. The vice-governor of one of the Mindanao provinces where Blaan-speaking people live, bought 1,000 copies of the Koronadal Blaan New Testament to distribute for "moral guidance." It is encouraging to think that someone in a high government office wants to encourage the reading of Scriptures for the benefit of the citizens.

### SIL Philippines Branch Conference

Every two years most of the members of WBT and SIL who work here in the Philippines gather together to elect a director and executive committee. We listen to reports, discuss new ideas, pray together, and vote on various policies. This year our Conference was held for the first time right here in Bagabag. We were involved in some of the preliminary preparations. At the top of this page is the banner the two of us designed and had made for our Conference Hall. (The actual size was 3 feet high by 18 feet long.)



*Conference Group Picture, 2006*

Conference always includes times of fellowship with people we otherwise rarely see. Sally always enjoys seeing Nasuli friends from her single days. And it is nice to meet new members to our group. Can you find us in the picture above of all who came for Conference? We're back about 4 rows, a little left of center. Leon is in plaid. Sally is in front of Leon and slightly to his left.

### Summer News

School is out for the months of June and July, beginning again on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Sally is enjoying a slower pace, but she's not without work. Among the things she is working on are the school budget, a school handbook, organizing the summer tutoring program, and even cleaning the school!

We have teachers lined up for all our classes. Sally's 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade class will be another year of all boys. Pray that our newest teacher will have her support base established and airline ticket purchased in time to be with us before school actually begins on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

As we're entering the final year of our term before furlough, Sally is also using the summer months to sort through some of our worldly goods. We find it a healthy discipline to be discarding some of these "collected things".

Leon continues to work in the Publications Department and on the SIL Philippines website. Pray for someone to step forward in the coming months to take over the job of webmaster. Leon feels the site would benefit from a new look. He created the website in late 1999. Then, in 2000, [sil.org/asia/philippines](http://sil.org/asia/philippines) was launched on the world wide web. The website has gone from a small offering consisting of 2 Mb<sup>1</sup> to a major presentation with over 300 Mb<sup>1</sup> available online to language researchers. Any rewrite should be done by the next webmaster to give him/her ownership and ease of maintenance. Thank you for these prayers.

### Family News

As we have mentioned, furlough is a year away. We are looking forward to more time with our kids and grandkids. Phone calls with them are wonderful, but we look forward to some less limited times with them. Maybe we can even be there for a spelling bee (Way to go, Chloe!) or a birthday party.

The 28<sup>th</sup> of June marked our 9<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Sally likes to remind people that we have been married nine years, have four kids, and seven grandkids. Pretty good for a couple of old folks!

Leon  
and for Sally

<sup>1</sup> Mb = Megabyte or million bytes of data.

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

### Letters, cards and e-mail:

Leon & Sally Winter  
S.I.L. Bagabag  
3711 Nueva Vizcaya  
PHILIPPINES

**E-mail:** (we check it most days)  
[leon-sally\\_winter@sil.org](mailto:leon-sally_winter@sil.org)



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