

May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and in his special favor gave us everlasting comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and give you strength in every good thing you do and say.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NLT)



Winter Philippine Report

May 2007

On Our Way Home



Philippines



To



USA

Saying Goodbye to Bagabag

The SIL Center in Bagabag has been our home and place of ministry for almost all of our 10 years of marriage. Yes, it was 10 years ago on June 28th, 1997, that we married. Bagabag has been such a blessed place for a couple to work for the Lord, and now we are saying goodbye. May 24th we depart Bagabag for Manila where we have about 6 days to build a crate that will end up in Waxhaw, NC. Then on June 1st, we'll be in the air headed for Los Angeles.

Our last trip to Blaan Country

In our last letter, we told you that we planned to make a trip to Mindanao in March to say farewell to Blaan friends. One of our goals while there was to teach Pastor Cuma Saya how to use an e-mail account at a local internet café. This was a dream that would allow us to more easily stay in touch with the continuing Koronadal Blaan work. Our other desire for this trip was to have one more opportunity to encourage the Blaan Christians in their faith and reading God's word.

The most interesting part was teaching Pastor Cuma how to do e-mail.



Cuma amazed us. We always knew that he was a very smart man, just had no

exposure to the electronic world we take for granted, except for a cell phone. Well, he has mastered it and loves using it to contact us. Since leaving him and his wife, Lydia, in March, we've had over 20 e-mails from him.

There is an Internet café not too far by motorcycle from his house, so it's an easy thing to do. Maybe someday it will come to his home. For now there are no phone lines to his housing area.

Blagan

When Sally first began work with the Blaan people in 1978 she lived in the village of Blagan, in the hills west of General Santos City. The church was the center of community life in those days. Today it is no different. We went there to worship and visit friends for one last time. The pastor of many years passed away last year, and now his wife is leading the church. She invited us to speak on Sunday morning, which we both did.



We noticed that there were many women and children but not a lot of men, which disappointed us. Then we found out the reason for this. Many, actually about 50, have gone out from this church to lead daughter churches in this mountainous area. On Sunday mornings many of the men of Blagan are in other villages leading churches. What a wonderful reason for there not being many men in church!



Praise 'n Prayer

- Praise the Lord for the very special blessing to Sally. Each of the 42 roses speaks of a life she was privileged to touch for the Lord.
- Praise God for 10 good years of marriage. We have loved serving the Lord together.
- Pray for protection for the two crates we will be sending to North Carolina. These will have Sally's classroom library, all the family photos, and some tools to help get us started in the US.
- Pray for Lydia, Pastor Cuma's wife. She is being treated for a painful cyst in her breast. We sent a special gift to help with the medicine she'll need to take for a few weeks. Her doctor said there is to be "no lifting". We hope to give an update next letter.
- We'll need the Lord's help as we adjust to the higher cost of living in the US. We have been spoiled by the low cost of living in the Philippines where \$3 will buy a week's vegetables and fruit.
- Pray that the Lord will help us show a good testimony for Him in the possible stresses with a new location and new assignments.

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We had time with long-standing friends, even one of the girls who lived with Sally in the late '80s. She's now married to a pastor and has five children!

Distribution

We continue to encourage the distribution of the Koronadal Blaan New Testament. One room in Pastor Cuma's house is dedicated to storage. This month we provided New Testaments to 263 Lay Preachers, lay people who lead some of the smaller churches, who were gathered for training. Some had never been able



to purchase a New Testament so we gave each a copy. Immediately they began using them in their training sessions.

We also discovered that the K. Blaan version of the Jesus film has been done but was not being distributed. We found a source in Manila and sent one copy to Pastor Cuma. When he showed it to a few people, there was an immediate cry for more copies. Let's pray that this powerful video story will prompt more people to get into the Word in their own language.

So Long, Bagabag School

The evening of May 13th was graduation night for our lone 8th grader. She invited the lone 7th grader to join her for the evening since this girl is also leaving our school for her furlough year. It was a lovely evening as these two young ladies who have been with us over many years were honored.

As part of the evening one of the teachers put together a PowerPoint presentation that showed all the classes that Sally has taught here in Bagabag and various pictures of her in her role. After the PowerPoint, Sally was presented with 42 roses and 42 picture cards, one for each student she has taught at Bagabag School.



This month is hard on Sally as she says good-bye to students and staff alike. She will greatly miss teaching MKs. The small classes, the freedom to innovate, the supportive families all make for about the most ideal teaching situation one can find.

Leon's Hats

Two of Leon's hats have been hung up, waiting for replacements. One will go with him, the webmaster's position. Because it is internet-based, it can be done anywhere. Eventually he would like to pass this job to someone working locally in the Philippines, but for now he will continue this important service.

What's Ahead?

We will spend most of the summer on the West Coast of the US. We have a trip already planned up to Washington, east to Montana, then back down through Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada. We'll be visiting churches in southern California until early September. Then we'll begin winding our way across the US toward the Northeast.

We'll spend the winter there, with a trip to South Africa at Christmas time. Then in the spring we will make our way to our home in Waxhaw, North Carolina.

Please let us know very soon if you would like to see us. We will not be driving back to the West Coast like we have in previous furloughs, thus need to plan this trip to be available to as many as we can.

To help you reach us, remember the following:

After June 1st use e-mail or mail to:

1880 W. Surf Drive
Anaheim, CA 92801
Phone: 714-956-9647

After September 1st use e-mail or mail to:

(two months on the road then arrive at:)
114 Tucker District Rd.
Dayville, CT 06241
Phone: 860-774-2577

After April 1st, 2008 use e-mail or mail to:

6101 Stonebridge Ln.
Waxhaw, NC 28173
Phone: *To be announced*

Dear family and friends,

No language we know has enough words for "gratitude" to express how we feel about your partnership with us. Nor do we take lightly the sacrifices many of you make on our behalf. We pray God will encourage you with the knowledge that your investments of prayer and finances are noted in Heaven and reap eternal dividends. We trust our Father in Heaven is blessing your daily walk with Him and a deeper consciousness of His constant love and companionship.

With joy in His service,

Leon and for Sally

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

Mailing address until in Sept. 1st:

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Make your check to WBT and add a note: "For the ministry of Leon & Sally Winter." Thank you.