



People in the Philippines could use more help. Reserve funds are still lower than two years ago. Please consider a year-end gift to PAMI, and/or consider sponsoring a pastor, EBI student, or children's milk feeding outreach at \$30 per month.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Unlike most Asian countries, Christmas has long been a major holiday in the Philippines due to its Spanish and Catholic heritage. In keeping with its reputation for being a land of fiestas, it has the distinction of having the world's longest and merriest Christmas celebration, extending from Dec. 16 to Epiphany (the Feast of the Three Kings on the first Sunday of January). It is a time for worship, family, friendship, sharing, giving, food, and fun.

When I asked Pastor Chito what Christmas is like for children in the Philippines, this is what he said:

It is the most awaited season, even in schools. Classrooms are decorated with indigenous materials (abaca, coconut or other leaves). Sometimes there are contests for best room decor, and parties with native delicacies like puto, suman, bibingka and sticky rice.

Children are excited too to go to their ninongs and ninangs (sponsors of the child's baptism/dedication) to sing carols, kiss their hands, greet and wait for gifts. Children sometimes go to the house of their lolo and lola (grandparents) to spend Christmas vacation.

In the old time, children were told to hang bags or socks at the window for Santa Claus to give toys or candies. At night, many children would go house to house to sing carols. Since it's night after night, households would just give a coin or two.

All in all, we usually say that "Christmas is for children," because that's the time when parents try their very best to give kids even small presents, cook nice foods, go to church, and if possible bring them to park or mall even if just to stroll.

By the way, it's nice to be recognized by a college in Sorsogon that invited us to a province-wide Christmas cantata contest. EBI students prepared a remix of 3-6 songs, and won 1st runner-up.



EBI students on stage at Aemelianum College, receiving an award for 1st runner-up of province-wide Christmas cantata



Clare & Danielle led potluck guests in singing "God Made the Animals" with hand motions, like they did in the Philippines

FALL HAPPENINGS

About 60 attended the annual fall PAMI potluck on October 2nd. There was good food, fellowship, and music. Respond teammates Becky Petersen, Danielle Johnson, Clare Efteland, John Miller, and Mike Thorud shared exciting stories, pictures, and video of their July 8 - 30 short term mission to the Philippines. The same 10 minute highlight video can be viewed online at: <http://respondphilippines.wordpress.com/>

The visit was mutually encouraging to the team and Filipinos alike. So many people and places were ministered to (including Bible clubs conducted with 1500 kids in 9 towns).



Here's over 200 kids attending one of the Bible Clubs

Praise God that the Respond visit has ongoing positive after-effects, including greater church attendance and involvement, and more receiving and growing in Christ. Pastor Chito writes: *On Nov. 29 I was invited by Ptr Pio Garduque of Barcelona PAMI church to speak at their Thanksgiving & Sunday Worship service, with the theme "Every Member is a Leader." What really touched me was the presence of about 5 young people ranging in age from 14-18, actively helping in arranging the room, serving as ushers and helping in the food preparations. Later, in the program those young people gave testimonies that they were just neighbors who came to know the Lord about four months ago. In their testimony, they said that they were touched by God's words and wanted to know more of God and His words. They were among the results of your recent mission trip (Respond Team). They're planning baptism for the last week in Dec.*

Izzy Allen Tidbit: "Amazing Grace isn't only the girl down the street"

A NEW KIND OF MISSIONARY

By John Miller, Respond team member

Did you know that "indigenous missionaries are doing 90 percent of the work with less than 10 percent of the total funds given to missions worldwide"? (Bob Finley, *Reformation in Foreign Missions*). By one estimate, there are 300,000 missionaries who serve with almost no financial support. According to K.P. Yohannen, the founder and president of Gospel for Asia, in the time since the ascension of Jesus, there have been three great waves of world missions. The first wave was the apostles of the New Testament times. The second wave was the colonial mission movement, starting with pioneers like William Carey and Hudson Taylor in the late 18th century, and continuing with thousands of European and American missionaries going throughout Asia and Africa. The third great wave of world missions are the native missionaries today: the dedicated believers from third world countries, who selflessly devote their lives to bringing the message of salvation in Jesus to villages and people in their own country, who do not yet know Christ.

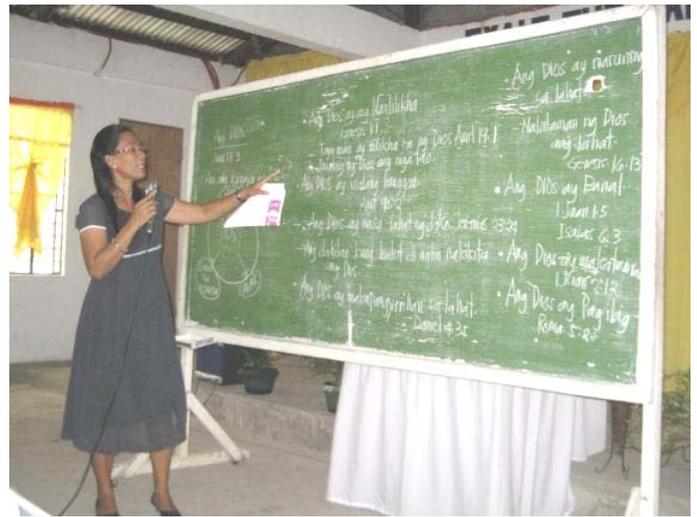
Native missionaries have many advantages over Americans in being able to minister to their people. They already know the language and culture of their own people. They look and dress just like the people they're trying to reach. They are used to enduring physical hardships. They live at the same standard, and do not give the appearance of being a wealthy tourist. They can be supported for a small fraction of the cost of an American missionary. About 40 native missionaries can be supported with the money needed for one American missionary family. Furthermore, native missionaries are willing to suffer persecution, and even give their own lives, in service to God's Great Commission.

PAMI's Role

PAMI has the privilege of being just a small part of the native missionary movement. In the Sorsogon province of the Philippines, 23 pastors and workers, enabled by God, working through the financial support of Americans, are able to devote their full time to ministry and evangelism.

This past summer I had the opportunity to share a few weeks of my life with the Filipino brothers and sisters of PAMI. Throughout my time there, I was continually amazed at the great work that God was doing through these national workers. Our first Sunday in the province was spent at EBI. I sat in on the adult Sunday school class taught by Sis. Ofel Mendizebel. As she was standing there teaching in the native Bicol language, I realized that I couldn't understand more than about two words. But this thought came to my mind:

"Even if I were to spend the rest of my life here in Sorsogon, learning the language and culture, and building relationships, I could never teach and minister to these people as effectively as Sis. Ofel is doing right now. That's why God has raised up these local believers here to do His work."



Sister Ofel Mendizabal teaching adult Sunday school

Adopt-a-Pastor, Student, or Milk Feeding

Native missionaries have the training, vision, and calling from God, but they lack the financial resources to support their day-to-day living, while they devote full time to outreach and ministry. But that is where God uses Americans, who even in this recent economic downturn still live in the wealthiest country in the world. Could it be, that the reason God has blessed believers in this country with such abundant material riches, is so that we can share in the spiritual harvest around the world, through our financial support and prayers for these national pastors? The total cost of supporting a PAMI pastor is \$80-\$200 per month. For \$30 per month, or whatever the Lord leads, you can adopt a PAMI pastor.

Your gifts will enable a pastor to give their full time to ministry. When you adopt a pastor, PAMI will send you information and a picture of that pastor and their family. You'll also get updates about that pastor at least once each year, so that you can come to know and pray for your pastor and family more personally. By the way, that pastor will also be praying for you. Packets of materials are currently available for sponsoring either Pastor Redgie Bonifacio in Castilla, Sorsogon (see article on next page), or Pastor Randy & Nida Rivera family in Allen, Samar (see the articles entitled "A Prayer for Water" and "Visiting Bankawan Island" on the following blog site).

<http://respondphilippines.wordpress.com/>

Besides sponsors for pastors, we're also looking for sponsors for EBI students and children's milk feeding outreaches. By supporting an EBI student at \$30 per month, you'd be covering their food, overhead, and spending money for school and hygiene supplies. Some students come from poor families and really could use help. We'd provide sponsors with student background and testimonies (e.g. see article on Sis Robelyn on next page). \$30 a month is also enough to cover a location with about 30 kids receiving milk or a nutritious snack once a week. We have a vision to enlist a hundred people willing to give \$30 per month (roughly a dollar a day), which could help PAMI double the amount of ministry currently done. Please contact PAMI if interested in being a sponsor.

TESTIMONY OF AN EBI STUDENT

I am Robelyn Ongcal, daughter of Sanny Boy and Warlita Ongcal of Barangay Peña, Calbayog City, Western Samar. I was still very young when my parents became Christians. And I grew up going to church, attending Sunday School and



Worship. My parents' godly lives influenced us deeply but I only had a personal relationship with Christ when I was in third grade. I dreamt of serving God as a way of giving Him thanks for all His goodness to me and my family.

My family has had a lot of hardship, like the tragic death of our youngest brother; it was just after Sunday service that my brother was run over by a jeepney. But God's grace is always more than sufficient: my parents' faith was so strong--to trust God all the more, even in an event like that. Until now, they are still active in our local church. Luke 1:37 says, "Nothing is impossible with God."

Another big influence in my spiritual life is my sister Raquel. When she became a Bible student at EBI, she has a very strong witness to us and others because of her changed life. I decided that like my sister Raquel, I would serve God too with all my heart and strength. And I enrolled at EBI; now I am already in second year. I love teaching children, leading songs and helping selling bread at Tatay's bakery. I give all the glory to God!

PRAYER REQUESTS: 1. Healing of my mother from eye problem (cataract and myoma), 2. protection for my sister Raquel as church planter in San Isidro, N. Samar and the work there to be soon established, 3. my sister Renezah and brother Romar to study too at Emmaus Bible Institute, 4. my father's job to provide for the family

REPORT FROM CASTILLA CHURCH

Dear brother and sisters in Christ,

Greetings in Christ's name! I thank God for many of the backsliders or hurting Christians here in Castilla are going back to the Lord and coming to our church. Our youth groups are becoming very active, not only in our church but also joining inter-church activities in our district. We have new converts too, like Sis. Nora and family, who gave their lives to Jesus just recently and are now active in our church activities. I have an on-going discipleship training with potential members, that they may assist in the work here in Castilla; working alone in the mission is difficult sometimes. I requested again for an EBI intern and pastor Chito said we'll have by January.

Working with children here is still a joy. They come to church even after school just to learn new songs or play.

Please pray for other upcoming activities here: fruitful discipleship program, our Church Thanksgiving and Christmas party December 27, wedding of Sis. Jing (one of our members) this coming January at EBI, my own wedding to Airen in October 2010, protection or school transfer for Airen as she works as a teacher in a very remote place of Castilla (her brother was stabbed and

nearly got killed when he fetched Airen a month ago in that place).

Wishing and praying for you all – a joyful celebration of Christmas. Thank you so much for always lifting us to God in prayer and blessing.

In Christ, Pastor Redgie Bonifacio



Ptr Regie & fiancée Airen



Ptr Gumer & Ofie Gile

REPORT FROM IROSIN PAMI CHURCH

We praise God for:

- The radio ministry for 3 months now and a lot of response from the listeners
- For the additional Bible studies:
 1. At Barangay Carriedo, led by Bro Boy Buenaagua
 2. At Barangay Cogon, with 20-30 regular attendance, led by Sis Annabel and Bro Bong Gernale
 3. At Barangay Patag, led by Bro Nono Guban
 4. At Sto Domingo, led by my wife Ofel and Sis Joy (children's ministry)
 5. At San Roque and Mapaso, led by me & my wife
- Discipleship training every Saturday at 2pm
- Growing prayer meeting every Wednesday at 5pm
- Overnight prayer meeting, last Friday of each month

Please pray for:

- A new place to move to (our place of worship here is not good because we're near piggery)
- Church lot and building
- Musical instruments/amplifier for our planned "street preaching."
- Irosin Church Anniversary Dec 27
- God makes all our Bible studies fruitful



Please consider sponsoring a children's milk feeding ministry. This one is on Bankawan Island, Samar.

PAMI FINANCIAL REPORT
January 1, 2009 – November 30, 2009

PREPARING FOR MONGOLIA

Receipts

Mission Support	\$25,762.00	
Designated	4,711.46	\$30,473.46
Memorials	440.00	
Potluck Offering	723.00	
Mission Trip	4,366.74	
Other	2,502.54	8,032.28

Total Receipts **\$38,505.74**

Expenditures

Regular Budget	\$31,840.00	
Christmas Love Gifts	2,500.00	\$34,340.00
Mission Trip (included computers & other equipment, church & pastor love gifts, and radio contract)	4,401.74	
Educational Assistance	2,000.00	6,401.74
Other Mission Field Expenses		340.00
Administrative Expenses		254.81

Total Expenditures **\$41,336.55**

Receipts Minus Expenditures **(2,830.81)**

Cash Balance Jan. 1, 2009 8,145.99

Cash Balance Nov. 30, 2009 **\$5,315.18**

Prepared by David Steinmeier, PAMI Bookkeeper

Did you know that PAMI founder Norval Thorud originally felt meant to go to Mongolia? His calling changed to the Philippines after hearing a need there, and learning that Filipinos are related to Malay and Mongoloid races too. But the prospect of eventually expanding to other Asian countries is what prompted the A in PAMI. Through the years, the PAMI board keeps praying for God's leading in that direction too.

Perhaps these prayers are starting to be answered through James Arman Formanes, who graduated from EBI in March 2008. Pastor James was recently accepted into the cross-cultural training program of the Asian Center for Missions, and started four months of pre-field classes on November 9 at their facility in Laguna, near Manila. This will be followed by a two week local exposure trip to someplace in the Philippines, and then a two month cross-cultural exposure trip to an unreached people group in another country. It's also possible that he would stay on in that country after those two months. Amazingly, Pastor James is preparing to go to Mongolia!

Although ACM provides free classroom instruction, and subsidizes 50% of travel costs (up to \$1000), James will need sponsors to help with the rest of his support. Is anyone interested in helping him?



Ptr James is preparing to go to Mongolia

MISSION SUMMARY

PAMI is a non-denominational evangelical mission started in 1982 in Sorsogon Province of the Philippines by Norval & Ardelle Thorud, aimed at reaching the unreached, teaching and discipling, and assisting the suffering. U.S. missionaries stayed until 1989. The work has flourished with national workers ever since. PAMI now has 23 Filipino workers in 13 locations. Besides churches and pioneering works, there's also a 4 year Bible school (Emmaus Bible Institute) with 38 students learning to be church planting pastors and Christian workers. Christian radio shows and milk feeding outreaches to children are also conducted. All this is accomplished with an annual regular budget of only \$40,000. Gifts are tax-deductible and 99% goes to the field.

While the world remains in an economic slump, we praise God that PAMI financially did okay this year, perhaps partly due to extra interest and support generated by the Respond short term mission in July. We were able to increase our regular monthly budget from \$2800 to \$3100, though still down from a high of \$3400 in 2008. Our reserve funds are still a lot lower than two years ago, with a current buffer of about 1 1/2 months. Some **year-end gifts would really help.** If enough came in, we could consider retaining more EBI graduates, construct an EBI building for the Compassion kids for about \$2000, or buy a lot/building for a PAMI church like Irosin in place of renting.

Izzy Allen tidbit: "Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly."