



John Miller, Clare Efteland, Becky Petersen, Danielle Johnson, Mike Thorud

RESPOND! TEAM GETTING READY

A team of 5 is planning a July 8-30 trip to the Philippines (John & Mike from Prairie Hill Evangelical Free in Eden Prairie, MN, and Clare, Becky, and Danielle from Emmaus Lutheran in Bloomington, MN). The team has been meeting monthly since January, and is planning a kids program for various PAMI towns, including Gospel lessons, puppets, music, crafts, and goody bags. They look forward to staying with different families to offer encouragement and to be a part of their Bible study outreaches and worship services. Mike also anticipates discussing vision and future plans with all 23 of the PAMI workers.

Becky says, *"I am looking forward to the opportunity to go because Emmaus Lutheran has a long standing relationship with PAMI. It is a chance to meet the people who I have prayed for, and see the fruit of their efforts."* Danielle says, *"I am looking forward to meeting everyone at PAMI very much, and learning how they are doing God's kingdom work. I hope I can be an encouragement and help. I am eager to learn what God wants to teach us, and especially how to trust Him."* Clare says, *"I was so excited when I heard about this opportunity. I feel God is calling me to do missions work, and can't wait to see firsthand what God is doing in Sorsogon Province."* John says, *"When Mike first brought this up, my wife and I felt this was something I should do, and every excuse that I could think of (family, money, job) was answered pretty quickly. God has been showing me lately how much He is doing through native Asian pastors and missionaries, and ways that we here in America can support them. My wife and I have thought for some time that God wants us to have an active role in world missions, and this trip may be a step towards that direction."*

The team and people from Emmaus Lutheran helped conduct an Applebee's breakfast on April 4 and a garage sale on April 30-May 2. Thank you to all who made those fundraisers successful. Thanks to all who donated goody bag items too. About 350 lbs of things were shipped ahead of time, and more will be carried in suitcases. We could still use donations of a used laptop computer, digital video camera, digital camera, microphones, tripod, projector, small DVD/VCR player, or small and lightweight printer/scanner.

Thanks for your generous support of this trip. Also remember that PAMI can use more regular monthly support of its Filipino workers and field expenses. Most of all, please remember to pray for PAMI and the team--especially for our safety and effectiveness. If you aren't already on our email prayer lists, please provide your email address. We'll try to email some updates even while on the trip.

Please mark the following dates on your calendar to hear about the trip and see pictures:

- **6:30 pm Sunday, Aug. 30--Philippine Team Celebration Event in Emmaus Lutheran sanctuary, with a snack or dessert to follow**
- **6:30 pm Friday, Oct. 2 in Emmaus Lutheran gym--Annual PAMI potluck dinner (probably will include some Filipino food this year!)**

MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

There have been many exciting developments since the last newsletter (Dec. 2008), especially with ministry to children. That's partly why the Respond team plans an emphasis on children (plus all 5 team members have experience teaching children). Early this year, PAMI's Emmaus Bible Institute hosted an Understanding God's Heart for Children seminar. EBI also applied for and was accepted to be a Compassion International center for 100 needy children, ages 3-7. Our workers have been busy getting trained, identifying candidates, and writing bios & taking photos for sponsors. Compassion families will come to EBI every Saturday. Part of the program includes recipient families attending Bible studies. This should be a big boost to the EBI church and provide ministry opportunities for EBI students.

PAMI also started receiving Feed My Starving Children chicken flavored rice meals due to the generosity of www.amerICANHELPer.org. These meals help augment our milk feeding Bible outreaches to poor children. Pastor Chito says the kids love the taste. They add a little salt and garlic sautéed in oil, and presto!--a very tasty chicken arroz caldo.

EBI was also chosen as a Sorsogon Province distribution center of VBS materials from Operation Blessings. A VBS was held at EBI the last week of April with 96 attending (see picture below).



Izzy Allen Tidbit: "Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?"



FIELD UPDATES

EBI held its 12th graduation on March 31, with Pastor Randy Rivera speaking on the theme of "Commitment to the Mission of Christ" from Matthew 20:28. Below is a list of graduates, with where they're from and future plans. Note that EBI graduates help a lot of other missions besides PAMI. Also note that this is the first class with graduates from Samar Island. We'd like to retain one or two and could use sponsors to help cover \$75 per month to support them (especially Raquel Ongal).

- Winston Fresto from Bulusan, Sorsogon--hoping to join PAMI, but his mother church may send him to Palawan Island
- Elmer Besa from Matnog, Sorsogon--will probably serve with Presbyterian church in Matnog or Legazpi City
- Froilan Vilchez from Sorsogon City is with Overpowering Mission Church
- Marivic Foster from Matnog, Sorsogon is with Metropolitan Baptist mission
- Marcelino Aliganza from San Isidro, Northern Samar will join his mother mission
- Thelma Reyes from San Antonio, Northern Samar--praying to join PAMI, but probably serving & supported by Compassion
- Maricel Espineda from Bulusan, Sorsogon working with and supported by Riveras in Allen, Samar (she's Nida's neice)
- Raquel Ongcal from Calbayog City, Western Samar--PAMI application under process to work with Riveras in Samar --1st in Allen/San Isidro and maybe someday in Calbayog.

(Marissa Fraga from Allen, Northern Samar also completed coursework, but delaying graduation one year and handling a church in Allen Coastal under Glad Tidings Church.)

After EBI graduation were two baptisms. There were 24 baptized in Bulan on April 11 (see below photo), and 11 baptized from Irosin on April 30. Bulan reports that their youth group is really growing and becoming active.



There have been exciting things happening around Allen, Samar, especially as a result of Riveras' radio ministry. In addition to the daily "Good Morning Allen" program for \$400 per 6 months, they've been able to add a Monday to Friday 8-9:30 pm counseling program called "Heartline" for no extra cost. Listeners send hundreds of text messages each day, some from surprisingly far away. This has led to the start of multiple Bible studies, including two small neighboring islands, a mayor's office, a micro finance office, a group of pedecab drivers, and many homes. Many have been led to salvation. Adding both Maricel and Raquel will help with follow-up.



Returning from an island Bible study



Bible study in an office



People raising hands at a Bible study to receive Christ



Maricel



Raquel

It's great that PAMI is connecting with other Christian organizations. Some of our workers are now helping with an audio recording of the New Testament in the Bicol dialect for Faith Comes By Hearing. Then it's time for the start of another EBI school year on June 8, possibly with 12 new Freshman and 38 students in all.

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, and 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 35-40 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.

Izzy Allen Tidbit: "Weather forecast: God reigns."