



You're invited... to an evening of good food (including some Philippine items), fellowship, pictures/video, and **amazing** stories of how the Lord is working through PAMI in the Philippines.

ANNUAL PAMI FALL POTLUCK DINNER

**6:30 pm Friday, Oct. 2 in Emmaus Lutheran gym
8443 Second Ave. S., Bloomington, MN
Just bring a dish to share. Invite friends.
Call Mike Thorud at (952)975-3632 for more info.**

This potluck will feature highlights from the July 8-30 Respond! Philippines visit. Each of the five team members will share highlights/reflections. Plus Clare and Danielle will share duets and lead sing-alongs.



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

RESPOND! VISIT HAS BIG IMPACT

Wow! I stand in awe at what God did during our three weeks in the Philippines. This was the first time to have a team go, and it really had a magnifying effect. Through prayer and giving of so many people behind us, we brought and did more than any prior visit.

A big part of what made our visit unique was the Kids Bible Clubs that we conducted wherever we went. This was a 1.5 hour program that included singing, memory verse, Bible story of a lost sheep and Jesus the Good Shepherd, puppet show, science demonstration, PowerPoint slide show, Wordless Book gospel presentation, and sometimes concluded with response cards, snack, craft and/or token gifts. We anticipated conducting 10 clubs for a total of 300 kids, but we ended up doing it 15 times for a whopping **1500 attendees-- including both kids and adults**. Everyone was quite fascinated to see Americans in the neighborhood doing things never seen before.

We saw people accept the Lord! We also heard of healing! After visiting and praying for a stroke victim with a cold and lame right arm, it was reported that he was testifying at the next Sunday service that his arm was now warm and gaining movement.

This is an excerpt from an email from our field director, Pastor Chito Mendizabal, sent after our visit: *"Until now, your visit, ministry and Bible club have strong impact on us and the church. Praise God!!!! It is very evident in the growing numbers of church goers in all of our churches here."*

Izzy Allen Tidbit: "Don't just count your years. Make your years count."



Here are all the churches in Sorsogon Province and Samar Is. visited by us.

Materially, we provided over 600 lbs of things for the ministry, including a lot of goody bag gift items for kids, used clothing, and Sunday school supplies. Several major items included: 3 laptop computers (2 of them new), multi-media projector, VCR, portable DVD player, mini-DVD video camera, 2 digital cameras, karaoke sound system, and electric piano.

TEAMMATE IMPRESSIONS

Becky: *Their picture sits on my desk, smiling back at me, just as they did everyday as we were together at EBI (Emmaus Bible Institute). Michelle and Marichris, two interns (4th year students of EBI), have no idea how much they have impacted my life. How do you put into words, the deep touching of your heart? These two girls demonstrated Jesus to me in so many ways--their smiles full of love, acceptance, the desire to joyfully serve, always looking for ways to just be close, touching, laughing, wanting to make life easier for me. It was all about spending time together and building relationships. We have a common bond, our love for the Lord Jesus. Although we are sisters in God's family, I am definitely the 'older sister' ("ate", or "mommy" was the name added to my name, to denote age and honor). With graduation coming up in March 2010, I will be praying that they be able to hear clearly the Lord's voice as to where He wants them to serve in the church. I know that wherever they go, they will be a blessing, and touch many more lives with the love of Jesus. It is just their way. I was blessed by God to have them touch my life and heart.*



TEAMMATE IMPRESSIONS continued

Danielle: *Something that really impressed me about the people of PAMI was how real their faith was to them. Their faith was not just a religion they confessed at expected times, it was something they believed so completely that it became a part of their lives. Mentioning God in the middle of a conversation was not awkward or abnormal, it was continually flowing out. "If God wills, we will do this..." "Oh, I am happy to do this for the Lord," and singing, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases..." They really were living their lives for their Father and committed to reaching their neighbors with the truth. Their personal lives and their faith were not two separate things--they were one, and in all of it they were filled with so much joy! Their example was a challenge to me; their passion for sharing the Gospel, their love for the Lord, their commitment to the work they were doing, and their joyfulness in serving others showed me what my own life should look like!*

Clare: *I was really impressed with the effectiveness of the PAMI Bible school and churches. They really know how to reach out to their communities. It was such a blessing to just talk with the students and young people, getting to know them, and sharing our lives together. They are so far away on a map but they are so close to my heart. I love knowing that the students, pastors, and congregations across the ocean have the same passion to serve the same God as I do here. They're all so dedicated to Jesus and the work He has for them, that they'll get up at 4am for devotions every day! And I don't remember ever once hearing any one of them complain!*

Mike: *It was nice to discuss future plans with the workers, including expanding in Samar and beyond. I'm excited to partner with other Christian organizations like Compassion Int'l, Faith Comes by Hearing, Church Planting Institute, and Asian Center Mission. It was nice to see Compassion programs for both kids and parents already going at EBI each Saturday. Audio New Testament Proclaimers from FCBH are used in some Bible studies. We're hopeful to get many more, in our own Bicolano dialect that Ptr Chito helped record in June.*

John: *I used to think of missionaries as people from America who would go overseas to share the Gospel with people who have never heard. But seeing the PAMI mission, with all these local pastors and workers who so passionately share the Gospel with people around them, has really opened up a new perspective on missions. To see how actively God's hand is working among these Filipino Christians and how they worship and serve the same God as I, it's a blessing to be a part of God's ministry there through my visit, and through on-going support when I am home.*

REACHING A SINGLE RICE FARMER

On July 13th we got a glimpse of the true heart of the native missionary movement. The day was spent with Ptr Abner Cornelio and his family in the town of Donsol.

That afternoon Abner took us to homes where he conducts Bible study outreaches. To get to the first one,

we hiked along a muddy trail through a rice field, for what must have been almost a mile. When we were about half-way there, it started pouring rain. Some on the team had umbrellas, but we still got completely soaked. To top it off, as we approached the house, we saw a large caribou (water buffalo) about 10 feet off of the trail. Then we noticed that the stake he was tied to was **directly in the middle of the trail**. Since there was no way around, we had to just walk past the stake, praying that the caribou would stay right where he was. Once we got to the house, we had a brief time of worship, read the Bible, shared, and prayed for a bountiful rice harvest and for the grandmother's health.



Clare's muddy feet.



Caribou in path.



Ptr. Abner with his wife Marilou and their children, Onycha (12), Philip (10), Frauleine (4), and Sarah (2) in front of their rented house/church.

Later that evening, as I was lying on my bed, this thought came into mind: ***"Wow! Every week, Ptr. Abner hikes all that distance, through the mud, and past the caribou, just to share the Word of God with a single rice farmer, out in the middle of nowhere! Few Americans would ever on their own travel this great length just for one person. In fact, few Americans would even care that this rice farmer exists. But God knows and cares for this rice farmer very deeply. And Abner cares for him too. This is the heart and soul of the native missionary movement."***--John Miller

For a fuller version of this story and many more like it (along with pictures and video clips, and more info on PAMI), please go the following blog website set up by John: <http://respondphilippines.wordpress.com/>

LOOKING FOR SPONSORS

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 that it currently does. Only \$30 per month fully covers an EBI student or a weekly milk-feeding outreach for about 30 kids. Only 3 to 7 units of \$30 per month covers a full-time single worker or a pastor's whole family. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, we can provide names, pictures, and background of a particular worker, family, student, or milk feeding so you can feel connected to them and better pray for them. Please contact PAMI if interested in being a sponsor.