



# Mindanao Moments

Real Hope & Transformation in Christ

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## Christmas 2010

## Malipayon Pasko! Joyful Christmas!

*“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”*  
— Isaiah 9:6 (NASB)

### Christmas in the Philippines

Christmas is an important holiday for Filipinos. There are lots of Christmas parties (especially in the cities), gift giving, and a time for families to gather for their traditional **Noche Buena**—a special midnight Christmas Eve meal that includes mouthwatering Filipino delicacies. This year we will again spend *Noche Buena* with Pastor Johnny & Emie Dalisay and their family, our good friends and neighbors. They have included us in their family Christmas Eve tradition every year since coming to Mindanao which has been special for us.

We will also be spending time with our **Hope Mountain staff and Board** for our annual Christmas celebration on December 21. Every year we gather for fellowship, good food and fun, but above all to remember that the real reason for the season is the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We're also planning to attend a Christmas Eve worship service.



Celebrating *Noche Buena* with our friends, the Dalisays & Pantojas

### Christmas Blessings

As we reflect upon the awesomeness of the Birth of Christ—God becoming man, we are reminded again of the incredible blessing God has poured out on mankind. Jesus, the Son of God, being born in a manger, living a sinless life, going to a cruel cross for our wretched sins and being raised from the dead is what Christmas is all about.

We live in a turbulent, evil, hurting world! Television, radio, newspapers and the internet bombard us with mostly bad news. And living in Mindanao the bad news of violence, poverty, corruption and hopelessness is greatly amplified. But in the midst of all the bad news, **Christmas should proclaim the greatest of all news, the Gospel of Christ!** The “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace” was born. He is the Good News and the only Hope for this fallen world. At Christmas the words of John 3:16 should fill our hearts and minds. **“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”** Martin Luther reflects the awesomeness of these words, calling this verse **“The Gospel in Miniature.”**

**“God”..... The greatest lover; “so loved”.....the greatest degree; “the world”.....the greatest number; “that He gave”.....the greatest act; “His only begotten Son.....the greatest gift; “that whosoever”.....the greatest invitation; “believeth”....the greatest simplicity; “in Him”.....the greatest person; “should not perish”.....the greatest deliverance; “but”.....the greatest difference; “have”.....the greatest certainty; “eternal life”.....the greatest possession**

**May the abundant blessings of God’s precious gift of Christ, the Prince of Peace, be yours this Christmas and throughout the New Year.**

### Prayer Requests

- Gloria’s father, **Bill Carson**, is currently receiving chemo & radiation for a cancerous tumor in his stomach. Please pray for peace, comfort, and God’s healing touch.
- Pray for our **Hope Mountain**. This ministry is expanding so we need wisdom and help. 2011 is going to be a challenging year!
- In March we have two Christian businessmen coming from the U.S., **Kent Wilson & John West**, who will be helping us and the Hope Mountain Board with **strategic planning**. Pray for Kent & John as they prepare, and pray that their expertise will enable Hope Mountain to greatly expand its ministry potential.
- Our **support levels**, especially our *ministry funds* have dropped. Pray that the Lord would continue to graciously supply our needs.
- Pray that the Lord would continue to give us **health, safety and strength**. And **above all, that He would be glorified in all that we do.**