

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippines 4:4-7 (NLT)



May-June 2009

Spring Flowers Show The Creator's Handiwork

Come spring, God's children find much to delight them. We have been enjoying the outside with more evening walks. Along with others, we have bought packets of flower seeds, potted plants and fertilizer. We even had a dinner guest bring us a lovely pot of flowers—purple daisies. The red bud trees and the dogwood have finished now and there are green leaves filling all the spaces.

Update on Guinea-Bissau

In our last letter, we asked you to pray with a team from Leon's department who were going to Guinea-Bissau to install solar power, satellite internet, create a small computer network and upgrade a well. All this in a remote area where Bible translation is going on for seven people groups.

We are happy to report that God answered your prayers, for the team returned rejoicing over what God had accomplished. They talked about the blessing of getting to know some of the workers who will benefit from the new equipment.



Bill & Galen by the new satellite dish / translators Ivanildo & Belenice / literacy trainers, Marli & Juliana / Lendem center managers, William & Elizabeth.

Back to the Philippines

We now have tickets for our June 25th departure from Douglas Intl Airport, Charlotte, NC, to arrive in Manila, Philippines, Friday night, June 26th. We are excited to be going back

'home' to spend time with Pastor Cuma, his wife Lydia, and some of our Blaen friends. We look forward to seeing many of our co-workers.

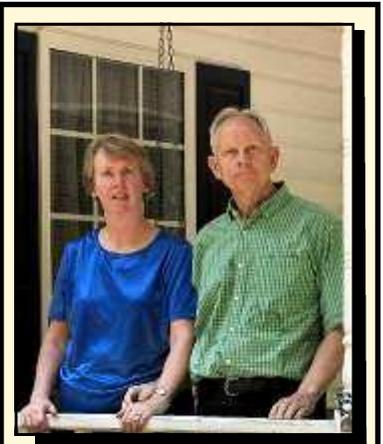
Our time on Mindanao

The next day, Saturday, after we arrive in Manila Friday, will be our only day to pick up supplies before we leave early Sunday morning, June 28th, for General Santos City on southern Mindanao. The next few days we will be busy helping with a hymn-writing workshop for the Koronadal Blaen people. We hope to have about 12 to 15 participants who have an interest and talent for creating worship music.

Here is an amazing fact: Blaen is the 5th most used language of worship in the Philippines, outnumbered only by the major languages like Tagalog and Cebuano. There are hundreds of churches that use Blaen in their worship services, and singing is a big part of this.

Music to Blaen ears

Many Bible conferences or large gatherings include a singing contest. Until now, almost all their songs are translated western hymns and choruses, in particular the familiar hymns most of us grew up with. Like: 'To God be the Glory', 'Trust and Obey', and 'Higher Ground'. The older people often cannot sing the translated western songs because they don't know how to handle the eight-note scale. Their traditional music sounds more like a chant or music sung on just a few notes. To our western ears it sounds a bit odd, but when Blaens hear it they get excited. Our desire is to see Blaens enabled through this training to create their own songs for



Praise 'n Prayer

- Thank you for praying with us for the Guinea-Bissau project and safety for the team. God will do much good in Lendem.
- Praise for the 15% that's been given toward to the Philippine Branch Koronadal Blaen Project Account to cover the costs to release all the New Testaments. Pray for the remaining 85%. (Details in our last letter.)
- Pray for safe travel and peaceful conditions for our time in the southern Philippines, as this could cause the hymn writing seminar to be canceled.
- Pray for just the right participants for the hymn-writing workshop. People selected by God who will use these new skills to build the church.
- Pray regarding our financial support. Since arriving in the US in June of 2007, there has been a gradual decrease in the regular monthly gifts toward our ministry and living expenses. We look to the Lord for all our needs and ask you to pray with us that others will catch the vision for partnering with us that we might stay the course for Jesus.

Philippines 4:6

(Continued on page 2)

Come visit our new website at www.leonwinter.com



Glenn and Sarah with their three daughters
On the web: www.geocities.com/gstallsmith/



Mà and Yê Lorena with family / Sally playing with Blaan children / "Chauffeured" from a mtn. village

worship. Songs that will speak to their hearts in a new way, increasing their depth of worship.

Sally's role in the workshop will be as interpreter for the leader, Glenn Stallsmith, and help with questions of spelling. Glenn is a highly trained ethnomusicologist. Leon is planning to give the book storage room at Pastor Cuma's house a good look-over, to be sure termites or water damage have not and will not occur. With over 3,000 Koronadal Blaan New Testaments in storage, we don't want to even think of termites eating their way through boxes and books.

Leon is planning to visit the local internet café. We hope to determine if we can use Skype to make phone calls to Pastor Cuma from time to time. E-mail has worked very well, but sometimes a phone call would help to clarify a point. If this is possible, the challenge will be arranging a time to call. Pictures are from 2007 when we first got Rev. Saya onto e-mail. What a blessing that's been.



Traveling halfway around the globe gives us a unique opportunity to spend precious time with friends who have been so important in our lives.



Leon and Cuma's grandson / Sally with Blaan ladies / Cuma, Lydia, and grandson riding a jeepney

Considering the fact that Sally began living among the Blaan people and learning their language over 30 years ago, she knows people spanning three or more generations.

Many of those she called grandfather or grandmother have passed away now, but those who were teenagers then now have grandchildren of their own!

We will be on Mindanao about half our time in the Philippines. When we head back to Manila we will visit with friends, have check-ups at St. Luke's Medical Center, order contact lenses for Sally, and get some heart medicine for Leon.

Meanwhile...

We continue to do the work God has called us to. Sally has just a few weeks left in the school year. It has been quite a challenge, moving from little Bagabag School, with 20-25 students in Grades K-8, to teaching 56 students in Grade 5 alone. Sally plans to return for another year of teaching the same subjects.

Leon enjoys his work on a team of like-minded men working to improve communication for the worldwide effort. They work to enable Bible translation, but along the way enjoy great fellowship. Leon has enjoyed being part of a men's breakfast and Bible study group meeting Friday mornings.

This summer, after returning from the Philippines, we will again host groups of young people that come to the JAARS Center for a taste of missionary life. This one-week program, called Jungle Jump Off, is designed especially for high school-aged young people who are pursuing an interest in missions. We host groups at our home, feed them, and tell stories of life in the Philippines. We really enjoy helping to pass the torch for missions to the younger generation.

Dear family and friends,

Praise the Lord! God gives us many fulfilling ways to be used in His service. Returning to the Philippines this summer to help Blaan believers learn to use their own ethnic music in worship is going to be exciting. Go with us in spirit by your prayers for Blaans to grow in Christ.

Joyfully for Him,

Leon Sally



*See the **color** version of our letter by going to:*
www.trinitynh.org/mis-winter.htm
Or go to our web page: www.leonwinter.com

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