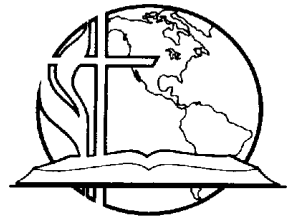




Christian World Missions

Formerly Cecil Williamson Ministry in
Evangelism



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Philippine Mission 2008

It happened in Japan's Nagoya airport en route to the Philippines. The paging system called me to the departure gate. Walking to the counter, I realized I had done something I had not done in 43 years of travel. I had misplaced all my travel valuables – my passport, air tickets, cash, camera, and phone! With much foreboding, I quickened my pace toward the gate and identified myself. "Mr. Williamson, we believe we have something that belongs to you," they said. They handed over my waist wallet. I checked it quickly and every single item was still in it!

So our Starkville FUMC mission began with the assurance that God was watching out for us. Dr. Armando de la Cruz and his wife, Ruth, led our team composed of Rebecca Kerr, Greg, Jeri & Vern Munshaw, Bill & Sandra Boyd, Philip Griffith, and Julie and me.

The mission began at the Potungan church (on the north-west corner of Mindanao Island) with an exciting young pastor-couple, Jehiel and Evelyn Balbon. For several years they had lived with their children in the windowless attic of their church, with a tiny balcony overlooking the pulpit and pews. Only recently had they moved into a three-room bungalow that our ministry (CWM) and church (FUMC) had financed.

Pastors Jehiel and Evelyn and the children were so glad to have, at last, a place to live that was nice and airy and more accessible.

Sparked by zeal to reach the whole barrio, Pastor Evelyn had started a small, one-room day school, which cared for about 70 children. They had a well-maintained, fenced-in lawn where the children could play. Starkville FUMC financed the swings and slides for this playground. Jehiel and Evelyn had together built up the congregation of mostly subsistence farmers in the area. But Jehiel was not satisfied to build up that church only. He had also started three outreach churches that were meeting in areas nearby under little grass-thatched bamboo shelters.

Our team was there to pitch in and help. Jerri Munshaw, Ruth de la Cruz, and Sandra Boyd helped with Evelyn's day-school program. While they and the children had an exciting good time, the rest of the team went to work painting the inside and outside of the church and shellacking the pews and alter-rail. With a special gift that was given we were able to purchase a set of drums and a keyboard for their worship service.

While we were there, Je-

hiel brought in all of the outreach churches for an evangelistic service. The new worship equipment was then enjoyed for the first time, with great enthusiasm. Julie sang and I preached. Fifteen adults accepted Christ as Savior. Young though he is, Pastor Jehiel is quite a church planter.



Evelyn & Jehiel

Immediate needs of Pastors Jehiel and Evelyn are as follows: a \$50/mo. supplement to the pastor's salary; help with expanding the day-school, where a number of other children would come if there were space (\$5600), rebuilding the one remaining wooden wall of the church that's being damaged severely by termites (\$500), and building more adequate shelters for the 3 outreaches (\$1200 ea.).

Our next stop was Ozamis, where we have cooperated for several years with the de la Cruz family and FUMC, Starkville to upgrade their church and work on their pastor's quarters. This year's team took it on themselves to try to get the pastor out of the leaky lean-to that is his quarters on the side of the church. They built several walls in the dingy quarters and painted it to be bright and inviting. The team re-worked the cook space and bought a new bamboo bed and settee set. One real problem in the Philippines is that some of their very poor members, when they come to church on Sunday, stay to eat with the pastor, who barely makes enough money to care for his own family.

Another issue is that the cost of rice -- which is their main staple -- is skyrocketing. Many poor are going to be very hungry.

While in Ozamis, Julie had opportunity to meet Pastor Elvie Go, of the Happy Church, which she had heard me talk about many times. Philip Griffith, Julie and I attended a worship service there the night we arrived; and the next morning taught their leaders. The whole team feasted at the Happy House where about thirty Happy Church leaders live and where the ministry office is located. To date, they have started over thirty satellite churches and more than 100 outreach fellowships. Philip, Julie and I visited several of these service outreaches. At their senior citizens home we held a brief service with about 18 seniors, the workers, and a half dozen children who live there to help keep the seniors more active. From there, we went to the church's home for about 20 abused children and then to the resettlement project — Happy Church is part of a major government program, moving people out of a slum to a beautiful hill-



In Day-school



side. They plan to build 36 three-room, concrete block bungalows, of which eight are now complete. One of the older outreaches of the church is the Bethesda House, a remodeled auto

showroom where they have a daily clinic, childcare, and a Bible school for pastors. They have purchased the property next to the Bethesda house where they hope one day to build a modern church. The Happy Church has met for over 30 years in a warehouse built for storing coconuts. This building can seat a congregation of 1200 and they fill it up four times every Sunday morning.

Our last stop was in Pagadian, on the south side of Mindanao to be with Ruth's brother, Col. Mendoza, who is now the Bishop. While there, we went out to plant trees on the property that is to be the site of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Pagadian. We had a wonderful celebration service our final Sunday. The head official of Pagadian, a Muslim, wanted to welcome us in royal fashion; so each man on our team was ceremoniously presented with an honorary sultan's hat. After preaching that morning, we baptized a dozen people and shared in a delicious church-wide banquet.

Before returning to America, we spent one night at a beautiful seaside resort, on the north side of Mindanao, with lovely cottages and white sand beaches. Some of our team swam; others walked the beach. We all drank in the beauty of God's nature. The Philippines are truly a beautiful part of God's world, with lush vegetation everywhere, but often swept by typhoons, which destroy fragile local homes and wash away the crops. Though many to whom we minister there are very poor, we find a joyful spirit among them all.

Build a Pavilion Church for \$1,500 in Africa, (As of today, there are only 70 for 147 congregations) — or support a pastor evangelist for \$50 a month.



*As always,
We welcome you to
join us on any of
our several yearly
missions.*



Cecil & Julie's Itinerary:

Please clip & pray for them

Aug. 28-31 — Kairos 24, Parchman Prison, MS

Sept. 8 — Ghuna Kumar's Visit

*Sept. 28-Oct. 6 — Visit by Joe Otsin of Ghana
& J.K. Udeze of Nigeria*

Nov. 23-29 — Branson, MO

- 2009 -

Jan. 16,17 — Holy Spirit Conf. FUMC, Louisville, MS

Feb. 23—Mar. 3 — Ghana Mission

Join Us!

Our India Orphanage has many unsponsored children. Out of 200 children, only about 65 are sponsored which provides housing, food, and clothing. The Mt. Zion Compound has their own elementary school and clinic (for the surrounding villages as well). Please sponsor an orphan for \$30 a month. We've added a new boy's dorm this year. We now need to build a girl's dorm, at \$63,000, a staff-house for \$52,000 and village churches, for \$8,000.

Pray for peace between Hindus and Christians in India and between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria.

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