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Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Brad and I returned from our wonderful trip to the Philippines on June 1 and have had a busy 4 weeks getting readjusted and catching up on things here at home. It is impossible to express the great joy and satisfaction that we both received during the 5 weeks of our mission trip. The length of the trip allowed us to minister effectively in many places and to get some needed rest while we traveled and visited the young college graduate missionaries.

**When we arrived at Lagawe**, the students were there to greet us with songs and a **ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new concrete and steel ramps** that were built to accommodate Brad and others to reach the second and third floors. I ran the video camera as Brad cut the ribbon and was pushed up the ramp to his room on the second floor where a new bed and mattress awaited him for his afternoon nap.

**The Youth and Family Camp** was very successful with about 650 in attendance. It was a great week of preaching, food and fellowship. 24 young people committed to full time Christian service including Pastor Victor's daughter, Esther. Many of those who surrendered, including Esther, are now enrolled at Lagawe Baptist Bible College.

**The Rice Fields** were prepared and planted while we were there and we had the privilege to visit the fields and watch Victor's older brother, Mario, throw the seed into the rice fields as the water reached the proper level. I walked on the narrow and slippery earthen dams between the fields in order to get a close-up look. Watching Mario sow the seed reminded me of the parable of the sower and some of the lessons we learn from that parable. I was especially reminded of all the work that goes into the preparation of the ground before the seed is sown with the hope that the seed falls into good ground. I saw the college students laboring to cut down weeds, plow the ground, build the dams, construct the irrigation ditches, etc. It reminded me of the entire ministry we have in the Philippines and how the staff and students labor to prepare for the sowing of the Word of God in the people's hearts. In the coming months we are praying for a great harvest in the rice fields and in the hearts of the people.

**Visiting the College Alumni** at their mission works was the highlight of the trip for me. I visited about 15 works and was greatly impressed with their sacrifice, determination, and dedication. Most of those I visited receive very little financial support yet seem to be quite content with their calling and the provision of the Lord. Because of your generous support for this trip, I was able to give all of them approximately \$100.00 each to help and encourage them while at the same time giving it as a token of the love and prayers from America. I was also able to give an extra few hundred dollars to an alumni couple whose children were sick and in the hospital. The love and gratitude expressed to me and meant to be forwarded to you was quite overwhelming at times. There was no shame in the tears we shed.

**Brad has not needed any phlebotomies** or removal of blood since our return. His blood work has been normal for the past four weeks and his red cell count is holding steady. In the fourth week of our trip, Brad's face became very red and flushed and he was confused and talking with slurred speech. I thought we might have to come home a week early to find that his blood was very thick again. The students and alumni prayed earnestly for Brad during the day and night and Brad's face returned to a normal look the next day and his confusion was gone and his speech was very good. I believe God intervened and answered the prayers of the students and alumni so that we could stay the final week and have special time and fellowship with them. That final week was power-packed with preaching, fellowship, heart-rending goodbyes, and many other events that left us with a deep satisfaction that the trip was certainly ordained of God and would have lasting results.

**Thank you again** for all your prayers and support for this very special trip. I have had many exciting trips to the Philippines (20 altogether) but none has been as satisfying, effective, and informative as this one. I learned so many things about our graduates and alumni when I visited their mission works that made me aware of how special they are in their willingness to sacrifice and remain faithful to their calling. Most of them have very small works that meet in a building that is both church and home for them, yet they approach each service with excitement and joy which transfers to their congregation. It was a pleasure just to be in their presence and fellowship with them and their people.

Brad and I look forward to visiting some of you in the coming months to share the video and pictures and give some personal testimony about the trip. Please call me or email me if you have a date in mind for me to come. Please continue to pray for Brad and I.

By His Grace,

*Jim and Brad Park*

