

The Park Family



Cherokee, N.C.

5301 Big Cove Rd.
Cherokee, N.C. 28719
828-497-6331

Philippines

Global Baptist Missions
P.O. Box 6068
Asheville, N.C. 28816

June 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The following is a daily summary of events and impressions taken during my recent trip to the Philippines. Some comments will be highlighted for emphasis.

Monday, May 10: Gave Brad a hug and told him good bye...was taken to Asheville airport by Pastor Kilgore. Because of a badly sprained ankle and bruised ribs, Bro. Ben Wilkerson comes to help with 68 lb. box of books and Bibles and other heavy luggage...flights went well...had great opportunity to witness from Detroit to Tokyo...ankle swelled quite a bit...Ibuprofen taken regularly....arrived in Manila at 11 pm. on May 11...in bed at hotel about 1 am on May 12...**30 hours since leaving home.**

Wednesday, May 12: Left Manila 10 am and traveled 4 hours to Cabanatuan. Preached evening service at mission work of college graduate, Randy Guadalupe (Barbara Carpio's brother). **Randy and wife Myrna have 3 children and a great mission work. Randy and Myrna have matured wonderfully well after a time testing and struggle. It is a blessing to see young couples and young mission works doing well and going forward with determination.** Spent the night there.

Thursday, May 13: Traveled to Lagawe and received a great reception from students and everyone. Canceled evening service to rest the ankle and rescheduled it for Sunday night. (home church in Lagawe has morning and afternoon services leaving the evening free for Pastor Carpio to travel and encourage the new mission works.)

Friday, May 14: Traveled to Nueva Viscaya for evening services with Rommel and Emily Reyes. Rommel comes riding in police car but was not under arrest...ha!...he got local police to give us an escort through a massive road construction project to reach church service on time...building and yard was full and had great service and fellowship. 18 youth sign up for camp being held the following week. **Rommel showing maturity and leadership. The work was "confirmed" and took a leap forward when Evangelist David Bane and the college students held a few days of evangelistic meetings in the town last year.** The Mayor, the police and school officials are impressed with the new mission work.

Saturday, May 15: a needed day of rest...ice on ankle and regular doses of ibuprofen during the day. Left foot is black and blue...studied, prayed, and prepared for Sunday services tomorrow. **Provincial Governor and town Mayor honors Pastor Carpio with a visit to ask his opinion about the needs of the province and the town of Lagawe.** It was a special honor and opportunity for Pastor Carpio, the church and the college which have gained respect among the leaders of the province.

Sunday, May 16: Services were attended by 2 Provincial Congressmen, the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Lagawe. I preached at 10 am and rested the ankle in the afternoon. Temperatures in the high 90's outside and even hotter inside. Had to drink about a quart of water per sermon. Evening services with Ferdie, former College Choir Director and Assistant to Pastor Carpio. **Ferdie and wife, Liezel, have a very impressive mission work near Bagabag. The yard was full of people and the drawing power of the Holy Spirit was at work.** I had great liberty preaching and there were 9 public professions of faith...mostly young people in their 20's.

Note: What a great blessing to train such dedicated and faithful young men and women at the college, send them out through the church at Lagawe, then visit them on their field of labor and see what God is doing in their lives and ministry. Some of these successful and faithful young men and women were often discouraged in Bible College and thought of giving up their college studies. Those who faced their trials and tests and finished their studies are being used mightily of the Lord.

Monday, May 17: Morning Camp Registration...over 300 campers plus staff and alumni. Shipped Bibles and supplies for camp 3 months earlier. The shipment arrived at Noon...30 days later than shipper promised but on time for camp! Good evening service...convicting power...very encouraging and edifying. Some emotion displayed because I had not been there in one year and because Brad was not able to come. Very tender spirit among the campers, staff, and alumni. I was greeted with a "Welcome Home" banner.

Tuesday, May 18: 5 preachings today beginning at 6 am before breakfast. 2 preachings after breakfast and 2 in the evening. I preach the last sermon before lunch and the last sermon in the evening. Recreation is in the afternoon at the well-guarded National Police Compound on the mountain beside the church building. Had a great conversation with the Vice Commander of the Compound who welcomed our campers and complimented the great work of the church and college and its positive influence in the town of Lagawe and the surrounding area. Some of the police and military officers played basketball with our boys.

Wednesday, May 19: Regular day at camp except there is a simultaneous preparation for evening College Graduation Services. Food preparation is in high gear...another pig is killed and more bags of rice are opened for the evening meal. Many guests and visitors arrived during the evening to attend the graduation of 14 students. **Graduation ceremony was a joyful occasion and very timely and effective during the week of Youth Camp.**

Chito Carpio was elected President of the Alumni Association in a special meeting after graduation. The Alumni expressed their thankfulness to me and all those who support the college and the ministries which have resulted from it. It was very heartfelt and emotional. Representatives of each graduation class testified and sang for me at the meeting. I was greatly affected and moved by their comments. **Wish all of you could have heard their loving appreciation for all the help and encouragement they get from believers in America.** I was blessed to represent all of you in the meeting.

Note: Got word that Brad had a bad seizure. It usually takes 24 hours for him to be fully aware again after this kind of seizure. The Caregivers did a good job dealing with the situation so that I could continue my trip and ministry.

Thursday, May 20: Last full day of camp with memories of graduation fresh on their mind. Powerful day of testimonies, songs and sermons. **There were a number of professions of faith and about 20 campers commit to our Bible College. There was an unusual depth of fellowship and unity of purpose.**

The growth and maturity of the missionaries and their churches seems to have improved dramatically. Almost all campers come from churches and mission works connected to the church and college at Lagawe. It really began to sink in on this trip what God has done since the college began in 2002. It is a privilege to have a part in this great work of God.

Friday, May 21: Some traveled home last night to avoid the heat and the rest of us traveled today. Victor and his family brought me to Baguio in the evening and we stayed at a gated missionary compound called Doane's Rest. It is owned by ABWE (American Baptists for World Evangelism) and is designed primarily for missionaries to stay a limited amount of time to rest. Victor and I will preach at different churches on Sunday.

Saturday, May 22: Rested till noon at Doane's Rest and took a taxi ride in the afternoon to Camp John Hay for a walk in the park. John Hay is a former American military compound now made into a city park. Had a great American style meal at a fine restaurant and reviewed the blessings of God during this trip. Returned to Doane's Rest in late evening for prayer and study in preparation for Sunday services.

Sunday, May 23: Preached at Art Carpio's work in La Trinidad at 10 am. It is a growing and lively work. They are well versed in the Word and very receptive and responsive. They are still conscious of losing some members during the typhoons and landslides last year. Visited the site where many Filipinos perished when buried alive in their sleep last November. **One of Art's young men survived because he worked late on the church building and spent the night in the church rather than return home in the rain. He returned home the next morning to find that his whole family had been buried by the landslide.**

Traveled north for evening services to visit a mission work which was a distribution point for the typhoon relief last year. They still remembered the landslides vividly and showered me with love and appreciation for the typhoon relief sent last year. I reminded them that I represented many American churches and thousands of American believers who sent the relief. **The typhoon relief sent last November and December had a great positive impact on the churches and was still fresh on their minds during my trip. At the end of this day I was wishing I had another week to stay and visit more mission works in remote areas...my favorite ministry.**

Monday, May 24: Left Baguio early morning for 5 hour ride to Manila. Arrived at hotel early evening and the clerks asked about Brad and said they missed him and asked who was taking care of him. In bed at 10 pm., up at 3 am. and off to the airport for 6 am flight. **Mixed emotions, want to stay in the Philippines and want to go home too.**

Tuesday, May 25: Got through the airport quickly with Delta Gold Medallion status...also free breakfast and lounge chair in the Delta Sky Club. Filipino boarding supervisor put me in Business Class from Japan to Detroit where I got some good rest during the 12 hour flight. Difficult deciding on the main course between "Roasted Chicken Breast", "Tender Fillet of Beef", "Grilled Salmon Fillet", or "Stir-Fried Red Snapper"...I got the beef...cut it with a fork. I also got delicious soup, a great garden salad, and a dessert. I turned down the wine and got Diet Coke. The meal was quite symbolic of all the "feasting" on the blessings of God which I enjoyed on this entire trip.

The flights were good all the way back home. Pastor Kilgore picked me up at the airport about 4 pm and we headed to Cherokee. Brad was very glad to see me....and so were the Caregivers!

Thank you for your prayers and support for this trip. It was truly one of the very best ever. Pray for Brad as he continues to have seizures about once per week now. Hopefully, we will be able to travel and see some of you beginning late this summer as God permits.

By Grace,

Thanks for your faithful support. Wish we could have come to the conference but Brad is not able to travel
Jim and Brad Park
1/08