

BriscoE-UPDATE

January 2008

I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. Ecclesiastes 3:12

Second Semester: Students began their second semester at Faith Academy on January 8. All of Jerry's courses except one are semester courses, so he has different students in most of his classes. The High School just completed Spiritual Enrichment Week (SEW). The speaker, Micah Voraritskul, is a Faith Alumni who is now a Youth Pastor in the US. He was a rebellious teenager who didn't want to be on the mission field. He was selfish, angry and just wanted to skateboard through life with his friends. During SEW in his sophomore year, Micah decided to turn his life over to Christ. He gave the Lord 2 weeks to see if anyone would notice a change in his life. If no one noticed, he figured that would prove all of this Jesus stuff was just fake and he would go back to being a selfish, angry skate boarder. The change in him was real and noticed. There are a lot of students here who are like Micah was, wondering if this Jesus stuff is fake or real. Now they know it's real. Many more of them have turned their lives over to Christ.

Rosanne is teaching sixth grade math, geography, and Bible to 43 students. Faith Academy's middle school (grades 6-8) will be having a week of Outdoor Education February 4-8 in the area of the Taal Volcano. Rosanne is the squad leader for eight girls. Besides learning about the volcano, a sports evangelistic outreach will be held in the town of Taal and a nearby fishing village.

SEND Conference: Our mission, SEND International, had its Philippines annual conference December 29 - January 2. About 60 missionaries and their families who serve all across the Philippines gathered together for a time of worship, fellowship and business. One of the highlights for us was hearing about how God is working through them to reach the lost for Christ. Our Bible hour speaker was Katsuomi Shimasaki, a former missionary here in the Philippines, who now works with the Bible Society in Japan. He challenged us from the book of Ecclesiastes to look beyond the trials and problems of the world, to appreciate and enjoy God's blessings for today. The children and youth programs at the conference were led by a group of college-aged students from Canada, serving a four-month mission through Venture Teams International (VTI).

Son's Visit: We were thrilled to have our youngest son, Jason, visit us December 21 - January 7. He was able to get a firsthand look at our life here in Manila. We enjoyed introducing him to our friends and showing him some of the sites in the Philippines. You can glimpse a little of his experiences here by linking to the first photo album below.

Photo Albums (click on the hyper link or copy and paste it into your web browser)

Jason's visit:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=1490&l=d0486&id=1057611345>

Jerry's Students:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=1488&l=589a8&id=1057611345>

Rosanne's Students:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=637&l=2434d&id=1057611345>

All for Jesus:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=636&l=3c58e&id=1057611345>

Aleesa's Wedding:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=628&l=3cc10&id=1057611345>

Jon's Wedding:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=635&l=d6d8b&id=1057611345>

Praises: We are grateful to report that SEND General Director, Warren Janzen, has been approved for a work visa in the U.S. and will not have to move his family back to Canada. God truly worked in miraculous ways to make this happen.

We thank the Lord for allowing Jason to visit us for Christmas.

We give God the credit for prompting some supporters to increase their faith promises to us in response to the weakening dollar in the Philippines.

Prayers: Pray for lasting impact on the lives of high school students following Spiritual Enrichment Week.

Ask God to change lives for His glory during the middle school Outdoor Education Week Feb. 4-8.

Pray for missionaries working among Muslim peoples – breaking through the cultural and religious barriers requires much time and patience.