



Christian Reformed World Missions – Philippines

January, 2010

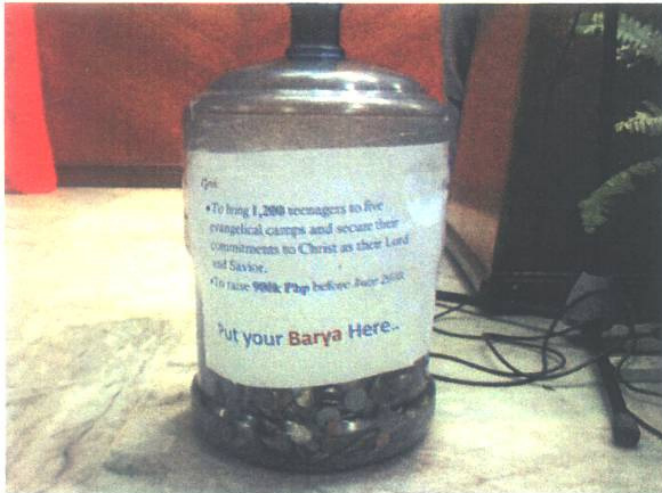
How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! ... when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. – 1 John 3:1-3 (NIV)

Dear Friends and Partners in the Gospel,

Sequel to Disaster Response

In our last letter we informed you about some of the responses of our local churches to the devastating floods that resulted from a series of typhoons in our part of the Philippines. The world's attention has naturally been drawn away to other disasters. And most of the agencies, both local and foreign, that offered relief immediately following the floods have gone on to other concerns as well.

But the congregation of Los Baños Christian Reformed Church has continued with long-term follow-up. Several hundred families originally assisted and still needing permanent shelter have received blankets and many other expressions of compassion. The congregation has committed to a bold vision and plan for the coming months:



1. Virtually the entire congregation has been organized into visitation teams to strengthen the connections already made in several communities.

2. A number of couples who have been living together for several years without benefit of marriage have begun to respond to the Gospel message that accompanied the outreach of compassion, and they have asked to be properly married. A mass wedding is being planned for those who are seeking to get this aspect of their lives in order.

3. 1,200 young people are to be reached with the Gospel and challenged to Christian commitment through a series of events culminating in five (5) evangelistic camps on successive weekends in April.

4. 900,000 pesos (about twice the congregation's annual budget) are to be raised in support of these endeavors.

Under the leadership of Pastor Benhur Garcia, the congregation has developed a growing prayer ministry. He has reminded the members that there are many enemies – obstacles to realizing the vision – and they can only be overcome by prayer. Please join us in praying for all who are taking an active role in carrying these plans forward and for success in achieving the vision.

Our Family's Challenges

We learned January 23 that Gladys' mother has passed away. We will be in Ontario, Canada, beginning January 25, for a time with family.

Our beloved daughter Rowena, disregarding the Lord's counsel and that of parents and loving friends, is pregnant. We have been reeling with the emotional turmoil, and we ask for your prayers:

- For Rowena, ending a relationship with a non-Christian and facing the challenges in becoming an unmarried mother
- For our whole family, dealing with all the unplanned-for changes that lie ahead.

Join us in thanking our God for his grace of comfort and forgiving.

Dwayne and Gladys Thielke
P.O. Box 433
4031 UP College
Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

Email: dwayne@thielke.com
gladysthielke@gmail.com

From July 1 through December 31, 2009, your gifts have provided 18.67% of our fundraising goal for the year that will end June 30, 2010. May you be blessed in your continuing support of our ministries.