



Cambodian Servants

March-April 2008

30 Years in the Philippines!



Hyde Family in 1972

In 1978 my parents left their native Iowa to become missionaries in the Philippines. Half way over the Pacific Ocean their plane had to make an emergency landing. This would set the stage for thirty years of great ministry yet plenty of struggles, hardship and eventually my Dad's death. Since he was martyred in 2003, it has been anything but easy, especially for my Mom. My Dad never met his grandkids and Mom and Dad will never get to accomplish their retirement dreams as a couple.

After 30 years serving God and sharing the love of Jesus, there is only one road to continue traveling on. Retirement will mean remaining in ministry. But after 30 years, it is time for Mom to retire from the IMB so she can pursue other ministry opportunities. As we are building an apartment for her in Cambodia, I am sure that much of her time will be spent here in Cambodia, but in America she has nothing. . . So she has to use her pension (not much) to buy a house, car, appliances, furniture and everything else she will need.



Lyn and Bill

My Mom is still in great health and wants to continue to serve God, but maybe at a slower pace, enjoying her two grandkids as much as possible. I can see how she would be very helpful in training missionaries and leading teams in Cambodia and the Philippines.

Help Buy Lyn a Car!

My Mom, Lyn, has given more to the cause of Christ than most. In July this year she will retire from the Mission Board. She has lived a life of a true disciple of Christ. For 30 years she has lived and ministered to the people of the Philippines for the purpose of bringing people to Jesus and knowing his love. For 30 years, our family had to endure missing relatives, the death of their parents from afar, not being able to be around their family and friends and being separate from their country. Both their children would nearly die, several times, due to the tropical diseases and poor medical care. When God called them to the most dangerous region of the Philippines, Mindanao, they went expecting God to do great things. God did it. Hundreds of churches were started before my father was killed by Muslim terrorists in 2003. As Lyn completes 30



A New Care for Lyn

years in the Philippines, she returns to the United States the widow of a martyr for Christ. There can be no greater honor in heaven, but no more lonely a life on earth. When my father was martyred many people wrongly assumed that the huge Southern Baptist Denomination would take care of all her needs. In reality she received a 50% salary cut and significant expenses.

As she retires after thirty years in the Philippines she has to start a brand new life in America. She needs a house, a car, and everything else. My goal is to raise \$30,000 for a new car for her. **Please help us to honor her service by helping to buy her a car.**

Donations can be sent through Words of Life as usual. (see back).

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Philippine Pastors Say Goodbye to Lyn



Honoring Lyn



Steve and Lyn in Mindanao, Philippines



Feasting on Roasted Pig

In early February after one of our Antioch Institute training sessions on Mindanao island the pastors gathered to have what they call a “despideta”. A “despideta” is basically a goodbye party where we celebrate by having a big traditional feast together and singing songs.

The center piece is the person leaving, but the draw is a grand feast which included roasted pigs, called “lechon”. We had three 120 pound pigs, 15 whole roasted chickens and a whole bunch of other food. It was great.

In that time, many of Mom’s friends from over thirty years came to share in their gratitude for Mom’s service. Each one shared how their lives had been impacted by my Mom and Dad’s ministry over the years. About 150 pastors and church leaders were in attendance.

Pastor Eddie and his wife sang a song they dedicated to Lyn and Ester Embaan, a victim of a terrorist bombing, spoke from her heart about the sacrifice that Lyn has made for the people of the Philippines. As Ester noted, certainly it would not be Lyn’s last time in the Philippines as her son came regularly there to minister to church leaders.



Imparting Smiles to Cambodian Children

Finally we have a name for the Kracheh Children’s Center!
“Imparting Smiles Association”

Not wanting to attract attention we have never named or had a sign for our Kracheh Children’s center. The people in the area simply know it as “the Jesus place”, we felt it was time for a more formal name.

So, the Kracheh Children’s center finally has a name, and a mouthful at that. You will have to trust me that in Khmer it sounds beautiful: “Samakum Pdai Piup Nyo-nyum”. In a country where Christians are a small minority, we want to make sure that all our staff and projects have a solid legal standing.

All the ministries remain under the umbrella of Words of Life Ministries.



Fun in Kracheh

Over Christmas break we had an outreach with the village kids. About two hundred kids came for the day of festivities which included many relay races, a boat race in barrels across the fish pond and many more fun games. It was a blast. Speaking of blasts, we ended the day by lighting off home made fireworks. The explosive charges were TNT which was salvaged from unexploded landmines. Some of them were

launched from a mortar launcher. Two of the fireworks had such a loud explosion that the police department came out from about 5 miles away! It was awesome!

The purpose of it all was to try to begin a Christian tradition (Christmas is not a holiday in Cambodia where Buddhism is the official religion). Though we had lots of fun, the focus was on Jesus and celebrating his salvation for us.



***Crossing the Red Sea:
Our Kracheh Fish pond.***

Karony's Baby Girl "Glory"



Karony's baby had an exciting birth. Karony and Meythea are both very organized people who prepared well for the birth of their baby, Serey ("Glory" in English).

Being their first baby, they didn't know what to expect, so they actually made 4 trips to the hospital on false alarms. The doctor told them not to come back until it was really time. On December 16, 2007 it happened for real. However, there was a problem with the baby's breathing, so the baby was rushed to another specialty hospital separating mother and daughter for about a week. In that time Karony ran between hospitals the best he could. After several check ups there are no more signs of respiratory problems. She is so cute too!

Destroying the Works of the Devil

Some people act surprised that the Devil would openly attack us, yet when Fox news talks about ritual sacrifice of babies, mass murders right in rural America, often we are tempted to just write it off as just the result of a few "weirdo's". Those "weirdo's" have a boss. . . The Devil.

After our last session of training in the Philippines, we had a pastor bring a idol of baby Jesus called a "Santo Niño". He would pray to this plastic idol for power and even use it as a part of black magic. The pastor knew it was a sin and when he became a true believer in Jesus he hid the idol but still secretly prayed to it. Feeling ever more guilty he finally surrendered it to Pastor Ben, our coordinator, and we had a bonfire. The pastor testified to having a great peace in his heart after destroying the idol. He admitted to being deceived by Satan to dependent on a plastic toy and not the true living Jesus Christ! Praise God for another victory!



*Jesus came to destroy
the works of the Devil.*

1 John 3:8

Prayer Points

- Pray for more staff and helpers in the administrative roles.
- Pray for ministry teams to come and help in construction and children's education.
- Pray for a smooth transition moving into our new house!
- Pray for the continued spiritual and educational development of the 65 children in Kracheh.
- Pray for unity among Christians in Cambodia and a desire for honesty and integrity in a very corrupt country.

Antioch Institute

- Recently we have launched 28 different regional training centers and continue to work hard toward helping others to train their disciples and congregations to help them to become effective believers. Please pray for the continued expansion of this training ministry.

Summer Visit to USA

From June 20 to August 6 our family is finally going to take a "furlough". Our dual purpose family vacation is intended to be a way to visit family, friends and rest at the same time. We are planning a cross-country trip with far more requests for speaking than we could possibly accept. We will do our best to see as many people as possible. We will be traveling some 6,000 miles in 15 states! We will stick to the western and central US this trip, and maybe next time we will be able to head to the East Coast.



We hope to see as many friends as possible as well as enjoy some camping, fishing, (hunting if possible) as well as anything else fun we can think of. Our son Paul is looking forward to his favorite place in America, Disneyland!

See you soon! If we miss you in the US, maybe you can come visit us in Cambodia.

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**Any checks sent to the church should be made out to:
"Church of Glad Tidings", but clearly marked FOR: "Words of Life."**

Thank you for being an important part of the work God is doing in Cambodia through Words of Life Ministries.