

THE VEST FAMILY

Your Missionaries to the PHILIPPINES

September 2008

Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Supporters,

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." (Psalm 116:15)

This past month has brought five deaths to our church family. Our assistant pastor, Gideon Decretales, and his wife Lila have had to bury his brother and her mother. Two of our Bible college students have lost uncles, and one of our faithful ladies, whose husband died in January, joined him in Heaven. When a person dies here in the Philippines, many families have a hard time getting money together to bury their loved one. Because of this, most do not use a funeral home for the viewing of the body but instead will keep the body of the deceased in their homes until the funeral. This provides an opportunity to hold a Bible study and win many friends and family members to Christ.

In the case of Pastor Decretales' brother, it was necessary for the family to carry the casket over 3½ kilometers, through water and mud, to bury the body. Mrs. Basister, a faithful member since the beginning of our church, had been sick the entire time we have known her. In 2007 she had to have part of her leg amputated, but today she is walking on streets of gold. One of the student's uncles was homeless and slept in our city plaza. In each case, our church folks were able to be a blessing to these grieving families.

We were very pleased with the final results of our soul-winning week in August, which saw 2,519 won to the Lord. Total salvations for the month were 3,259, and attendance in both our Sunday school and morning services have increased over the past 2 months. We praise the Lord for the wonderful group of soul winners that God has given to us.

At the end of next week, I will be taking a missions trip to Thailand and Cambodia. Please pray for safety and for God's help as we try to be an encouragement and help to the Filipino missionaries we will visit. In November we will begin our second semester for the Bible college, and we also have a special "Family Picture Taking Sunday" planned. Last Sunday we held "Parent Sunday" in all of our children's Sunday school classes. We invited the parents to join their children in singing and a Bible story. Later a presentation of the Gospel was given in the auditorium, and 56 were saved. Please pray for our follow-up on these parents and their families.

Thank you for your faithful support and the opportunity to represent you here.

The Vests
Charlie, Kay, and Brianna

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"...I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth." (Acts 13:47)