

**BILL WESTERBERG OCTOBER 2007 MISSION REPORT
TALISAY CITY, CEBU PROVINCE, PHILIPPINES (10-15-07)**

Hello again everyone. It is hard to believe that my current stay in the Philippines is nearly two full years now. So much has happened, and there is still so much work to do. For most of these two years, I have done the World Bible School work alone; my Filipino partner Wayne Pabillion has been busy with other things. But recently he expressed an interest in joining the WBS work again, and so we began an outreach in a new part of Talisay City. In a little over a month, we have enrolled about 40 new WBS students in the Lagtang section of the city. Wayne and I have talked about the possibility of starting a house church in that neighborhood in the future. It is somewhat far from our meeting place, and a neighborhood church would almost certainly improve attendance.

I continue to follow-up on the WBS students in the other parts of Talisay City. A few months ago I wrote about the beginning of two weekend devotionals for the WBS students in the Linao section of Talisay City. One of them fizzled out, but the other has continued. At the devotional which has continued, I have talked about the house church concept, and the idea seems to be well received. I hope to get something tangible started before my trip back to the USA in November, and then continue with it after my return to the Philippines next year, Lord willing.

We had one baptism since the last report. Lurben Dalinding was baptized early in October by Raymond Aliasot, the recent graduate from Cebu Bible College. Minglanilla had no baptisms, but we added a new worker there recently. The new worker is from CBC, and his first name is Remheart. I don't even know his last name yet, nor do I have any photos of him. But that will change soon. I remember when I first arrived in the Philippines; I took photos on a regular basis. But now, after a couple of years of photographing everything in sight, it has become old hat and I am not so quick with the camera anymore. Remheart is supported by a US Christian businessman in the Philippines named Mark Van Dyke. And we have rented a new place to assemble in Minglanilla, also thanks to funds from Mark Van Dyke.

We also have two CBC students come out to work with us on the weekends. They are Sam Daracen and Benjamin Blen. Along with our regular worker Raymond Aliasot, they are the ones who did the Bible studies with Lurben Dalinding. The CBC students also visit church members and encourage them.

I want to thank Steve Hoppole and the Blair, Nebraska church of Christ for sending \$400 to help needy kids. Most of the church members that we have in Talisay City and Minglanilla can afford only one school uniform for their kids. That means daily washings and sometimes damp uniforms the next day. Some of them also did not have adequate shoes for school. Here in the Philippines, students who do not have the required school uniform are not allowed to go to school. This is true even at public schools. We used the money to provide a second uniform and shoes for those who were lacking. I will also send Steve a report with photos soon.

We have a prayer concern about the Susas family. The whole family is poor, and yet they all smoke. Collectively, their smoking habit costs them a considerable amount of money. Even their basic needs sometimes go unmet because of it. They also frequently ask Wayne and me for money. Wayne and I discussed it recently and agreed that we needed to tell them that they need to be more responsible financially, which meant reducing or eliminating their smoking instead of burdening the church. Wayne was the one who spoke to them, since they are not very good with English. The message was not well received. They were angry with us and have not been at church for over a month now. Please pray for them, that God will touch their hearts and bring them back to the church family. The Susas family was featured in my December 2006 report.

One of our young members has received some funds from a US supporter to help her go to college here in the Philippines. The member's name is Melody Dejamio. She is a smart young lady who has done well in school, and she wants to go into teaching. The total cost for the first semester is about \$700 US dollars, and the amount she received is \$400. I am hoping to find the remaining balance for her first semester, which starts in November this year, and also additional funds for the remaining seven semesters. The original donor will likely continue to make donations for those semesters also. The remaining semesters will cost less because the required school uniforms are a one-time expense. If God has touched your heart, let me know and we can help Melody to get her teaching degree. We told Melody to go ahead and register and pay her tuition for this November, trusting that God will soon provide the rest. The Dejamio family was featured in my May 2007 report.

Speaking of featured members, I have none for this month. Time slipped away from me, and I failed to get the necessary photos and information this time. I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Please remember to pray for the Susas family, for Melody, for our members and for our outreach efforts. The included photos show the baptism of Lurben, the new assembly place in Minglanilla and some of the church kids with their new school uniforms. Take care and God bless.

Bill Westerberg