

# FACES of the Philippines



Will and Joanie Feuerstein

December 2010 E-Update

Greetings from Ohio as we finish up a difficult yet still wonderful furlough. We return to Manila January 17. Does this mean we're at full support....not yet. We still need financial partners to be able to continue in all areas of our ministry. The simple fact is God sent us out, very specifically to The Philippines, to share His Gospel message and minister to people in desperate need. Thanks to many of you who have prayed and shared your hard earned money to help this work go forward, more recently in the prisons. We're truly so very grateful and couldn't have continued without your encouragement and active participation.

**Lives are being changed! Leaders in crime are now leaders for Christ! This is GOOD news!**

The work is not done! We feel it's on the threshold of exploding after investing 4 years with our MPE discipleship group of male inmates and watching them embrace God's call on their lives, to serve the Lord behind the bars where few of us can go. God is working in some very dark places, including in the hearts of militant radical terrorists. We'll be glad to share a DVD with you about this. See the story on the next page.

Being invited by the government to visit the new women's prison in July 2009, we knew it was God leading us to begin a pioneer work with the women in prison on the island of Mindanao, but the funds are sorely lacking to continue. Even on furlough, ministry continues. We shipped 2 huge boxes with Christmas gifts of donated toiletries and eyeglasses but still lack money for the Christmas party (Dec. 18) which will include the entire prison (250) population (approx. \$700). But, we believe God has given us a unique opportunity to again make His Word and presence known at this Christmas season, which is all about our Savior Jesus' birth into this world. Christmas is a most special holiday event in the Philippines. We care deeply about the women at this isolated rural prison compound and it's important to have the traditional Christmas party for our female prisoners. So, we'll fund it personally and pray for additional partners to give. But if this work is to continue on full throttle in 2011, we need your help. Please pray about sharing financially with us.

Any amount really helps. Thanks friends!



On Sept 18<sup>th</sup> we hosted a luncheon for Ohio partners. Thanks to Riverview for letting us use their beautiful facility. We also live inside the church. Convenient eh? ☺ We can never thank Pastor Dave Fry, Alicia Hess, and all the great folks of Riverview who make us feel like family. Good Filipino friends Poli and Merci of **The Nipa Hut Store and Restaurant in Parma Heights, Ohio** donated authentic Filipino food. They also help us ship boxes to the Philippines. Check out their buffet on Saturday afternoons. The prayer time at the end, was a touch of Heaven with all of us different folks united, and sharing our common belief in the power of prayers lifted to our Lord.

**A FACE 2 FACE EVENING WITH GRACIA BURNHAM AND JOANIE AND WILL FEUERSTEIN:**  
**OCTOBER 14, 2010** Remember...by supporting us in prayer, encouragement, and finances,  
**YOU are part of the phenomenal Burnham story which God has not yet finished writing !**

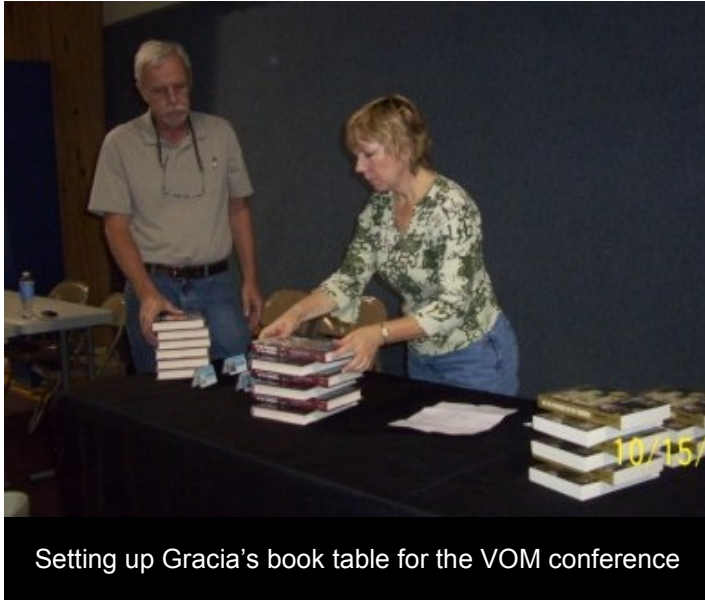
In May 2001, missionaries Gracia and Martin Burnham were kidnapped and held hostage in the jungles of the Philippines and a year later were shot in the rescue attempt and sadly, Martin died. Gracia's in-depth account can be read in her book, In the Presence of My Enemies. If you buy the most recent publication (2010) you can read her new updates of what has transpired recently. And, you can read about FACE 2 FACE and how we partner with Gracia and are involved with some of the men who were her captors...and now themselves incarcerated at the national prison, New Bilibid, where we regularly minister in maximum security.

In partnership with our sending church, The Little Church in the Vale, we held a special evening where Gracia presented her experiences and what God did during her captivity and what He is doing now to reach the kidnappers and draw them to Himself. God has reconnected this unlikely group of people in a most startling way, and connected us with all of them! We're thankful to Gracia who spent 6 days with us at the Prophet's Chamber at Riverview Church (where we live on this furlough). She is committed to serving with gladness by speaking out for God all over the country; yet she shared her precious time with us and many of you. We arranged for her to share with many of our friends and partners before concluding her visit in the Akron area; thanks Den and Becky for hosting us in Akron. We joined Gracia at the truly awesome Voice of the Martyrs conference Oct. 16, where she was keynote speaker amongst about 1000 people. Some 142:7 prayer partners and family, (Son John, wife Jen, daughter Kris and our oldest granddaughter Liz) were with us too for this most special time and hearing how God is growing His Kingdom through the suffering and sacrifice of many men and women taking risks in countries opposed to God's Word. At the end, people gasped when Gracia shared about the American missionary couple who is ministering to some of her kidnappers and known terrorists. And when she said 'the couple' was from Ohio, you could hear them gasp again. And then she said that this was a unique event because this couple was actually present today. More gasps and then she introduced us. We were humbled by the applause, yet happy our children could finally understand that God has separated us for His greater purpose and it's ok. Contact us now if you want a DVD of the FACE 2 FACE Evening with Gracia. (440-338-5772 or joanieandwill@actionintl.org)



After the program, FACE 2 FACE partners and friends were invited for refreshments while Gracia signed their books.

## BIG GUNS AND BUSES



Setting up Gracia's book table for the VOM conference

Serving with the persecuted church, **The Voice of the Martyrs** magazine, (Special Issue 2010) lists Mindanao as a hostile area. Friends Joyce and James gave us another VOM magazine (October 2009), that focused totally on Mindanao.

The VOM 2011 calendar, Aug. 3, asks prayer for peace in Mindanao and some call it **"the new Mecca of terrorism."**

The name should ring a bell with you since this is the southern island in the Philippines where I was invited in 2009. In January 2010, by God's grace, FACE 2 FACE joyfully launched a new work at the women's prison located there.

**You know, it's funny how some events that are**

**considered *extreme* in the western world, become almost 'normal' to us after living nearly 10 years in Manila.** ☺

I was reminded of a story about a bus ride from the prison with my women's team. From Davao City where I (Joanie) stay when on the island, the correctional facility is about 2 hours away by public bus. There were about 12 of us gals sitting at the back of the bus, rumbling along the provincial roads. The television mounted in front, above the driver, blared while hot air and dirt blew through the open windows. As we bounced along towards Davao, the bus came to a halt. I hardly noticed until a **big** gun near me caught my eye. I say '**big** gun' because I don't know the different kinds of weapons, but only distinguish the little side arms from the **big** guns strapped over shoulders and dangling...or pointing, whatever the case may be. All the men were led off the bus and lined up by the side of the dirt road. A soldier in military fatigues stood over us, but not threatening, just kinda observing with his **big** gun. 'Oh my,' I thought to myself. 'Oh well.' The search for illegal weapons was then concluded and we were bumping along again. I began sharing this story only recently, because I didn't think anything of it, for some reason?? I wasn't afraid and I think that is something only God can do. If the truth be known, I tremble about driving a car in Manila ☺. On the bus, I knew I was where our **BIG** God wanted me for this season of my life, so it was the right place to be, regardless of what may have happened. We need your prayers! We need your support so this ministry at the women's prison on this troubled island of Mindanao can continue. Would you consider joining with us as monthly partners?

Thanks friends!

Just another 'normal' day of shopping.  
We're all happy happy happy ☺



Angie Lumancas (2nd from right) with women's prison Superintendent Atty. Rachel Ruelo (far left) and Asst. Superintendent Fanny Garduque. We appreciate their leadership and care of the ladies incarcerated.

## CONTACT INFORMATION...DONATIONS AND LETTERS

We'll be receiving mail until Jan 10, 2011 c/o Riverview Church; 13968 Chillicothe Rd.; Novelty, Ohio 44072. Donations to FACE 2 FACE which support our work can be made:

**On line:** [www.actioninternational.org/feuerstein](http://www.actioninternational.org/feuerstein) or **Send to:** ACTION USA; PO Box 398; Mountlake Terrace WA, 98043. You'll need to designate the gift to us personally and use our number 40047. You'll receive a receipt from ACTION.

Your giving and praying makes all the stories a reality, as well as actual life-changing happenings in the name of God. We remain faith workers, depending on God to move people to support this work financially. We need to raise funds for our basic daily living expenses, travel, medical, rent, and utilities, just like you. In addition, we raise money to support the work and meet the needs of ministry expenses and travel. It's been difficult this year and we've been running short on ministry expenses for a few years...but catching up slowly now. With the unexpected vacating of people subletting our apt. we've had to pay the rent in October but not in November! Not sure about December yet, with our landlord's family using the place. Keep praying, thanks!

### WHO IS THE FACE 2 FACE TEAM, ANYWAYS?

It came to our attention that some people weren't clear that FACE 2 FACE is under the ACTION Int'l-Philippines Ministries umbrella and we, Will and Joanie, are the only team members. ☺☺ We work with volunteer local people without whom this ministry couldn't thrive. Volunteers include our GCF church family, Angie with the M 3:10 team at the women's prison on Mindanao, and our beloved MPE. The MPE (**Master's Plan of Evangelism**) are still prisoners, but who became believers in Jesus Christ and attended seminary inside the men's national prison compound in Manila. Still incarcerated, but now pastors & leaders whom we led through the Experiencing God study and disciple. Working together with them, we show sincere care for other inmates and guards. We identify needs and develop ways to meet needs behind the bars; physical, emotional, social, mental, and spiritual. This includes helping with schooling, building cisterns, repairing roofs, providing Bibles in their dialects, reuniting families, concerts, sports fests, providing seeds to plant gardens, as well as seminars with speakers like Dr. Harold Sala of Guidelines Int'l Ministries. At all these venues, the Gospel is lived out in real life as well as shared through testimony and over a lunch that FACE 2 FACE provides. **All this can only happen because people like you are giving to God and designating it to FACE 2 FACE through ACTION. You are the SENDERS! Someday, people in Heaven will thank you . We thank you now.** When we're on furlough trying to raise funds, the volunteers are the only ones left but unable to commit to full time ministry. **Maybe God is calling you to be a missionary** and maybe He is stirring your own heart for the prisons of the Philippines? Contact us. Maybe you're drawn to another country or kids, or...? Go to the ACTION website to explore ministry opportunities and Take ACTION now!

**GOD WANTS YOU** ☺👉

**IMPOSSIBLE? Ha! That's what we thought 10 years ago. (Luke 1:37)**



← 2001 Going to Manila & goodbyes to Liz and Amy at the airport. Then... and now.





We celebrated Bick Miller's birthday with traditional Filipino foods, even in Ohio!



Cousin Carol made it possible for us to travel to Florida and visit her brother Judd and meet his wife, Beth, for the first time. I also hooked up with dear friends, encouragers, and former missionaries Roger and Sally Eales. Then it was off to Siesta Key Beach. It was a grand family reunion after many years apart. Thanking God for family!



Like last furlough, we wanted to honor our FACE 2 FACE donors and report back to them. We ate, laughed, prayed, and shared how God was reaching into some very dark places and redeeming lives through their partnership with us. Wish we could have invited those of you outside of Ohio.

Gracia also shared at Riverview Church. Glory to God for His grace under stress and His redeeming love for ALL people. His faithfulness endures forever.



Kris, Gracia, granddaughter Liz, Jen, John, and Will pose at the hotel where we all stayed for the VOM conference. Thanking God for family.