



3 Sad Faces

Please Pray for the
Physical and Spiritual
Hungers in the World and
for Peace

FACES OF THE PHILIPPINES

as seen thru the eyes of
Joanie and Will Feuerstein
FACE-2-FACE Ministry ☺☺

TO YOU,
With Love
Edition



Exodus 33:11 "The Lord would speak to Moses face-to-face, as a man speaks with his friend" (NIV).



FACES of the Philippine Team We're glad to be able to again report to you through our FACES newsletters! Special thanks to Marion and Kim of ACTION USA for helping us format this newsletter in lieu of our computer problems. Many thanks for praying and for those of you choosing to support God's mission around the world thru donations to us. We guarantee your monies are used to further the Kingdom and share the Gospel as well as help needy people and provide for our own basic needs living in Manila.

Sometimes our written words express a giddy glee punctuated by numerous ☺☺ in our newsletters. Yep, we are so very happy to be able to serve our Lord here, and grateful to you, who make it financially possible. However, in no way do we want to diminish the poverty in the Philippines, nor the beauty of this country or people, contrasting with decrepit shanties, children and disabled populace begging at car windows stopped in the traffic snarls, and families eking out life while living in wooden carts that double as mobile trash receptacles. This is real life and not a reality show. This is true in the prisons but complicated by the extreme evil we witness verses gentleness in the Christian inmates. It is in the prisons of the Philippines that we see the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ changing hearts and transforming lives. The Gospel works! So as we share stories and present our missionary work laced with ☺☺, let us never lose sight that so many folks have awfully hard lives here. We're not "doing an overseas job" or romping through pineapple fields eating duck eggs. But also, we're not here to beleaguer hopelessness and expound the negatives to you, but to share the GOOD News...and it is GOOD! We desire to be found faithful to reflect the Light and point souls to Christ in all we do and say. **Thanks for giving, even when the economy is uncertain.**

➡ View our personal videos, more field stories and photos, by clicking on our Feuerstein page of the ACTION website, www.actionintl.org/feuerstein

CHANGING INTO 'R-12' PEOPLE As our field director, Jeff Anderson, shared in a recent team devotional, we don't own our ministries, but rather God has made us **stewards of His** work. God encourages us in the vision of the FACE 2 FACE ministry of which He has made us stewards and invited you to partner. Two years ago, our evangelism focus turned towards the prisons. God directed us to use the same *personal interactive* approach in jail ministry, as we'd been doing all along in our missionary work. This is not common and practically unheard of in the prisons here. It seemed a natural fit with our personalities but we certainly didn't know how to do it! We depended on God to shape the ministry and allow inmates to get to know and trust us. This isn't just 'Christian lingo' but we pray and take seriously our daily Bible time, *absolutely depending* on God to direct our next steps. God is changing the men! Through discipleship, study of God's word and working through the *Experiencing God* materials, the MPE-9 are beginning to learn how to follow God's will and not just do 'programs' and 'busy religious' activities. Nor are they continuing to be 'territorial' and legalistic to stay within their own group of believers. Recently one of our MPE-9, Pastor Eddie, told us that FACE 2 FACE was doing the right thing the right way. He said he's changed the outreaches at

his (*behind the bars*) church and instead, sends people out one-by-one to build friendships in an intentional manner. Like most outreaches, if not all, the "group" would go and deliver a message of salvation and then leave. There was no relationship...or even recognition or awareness of the men to whom they delivered the word. So the 'audience' to such preaching and teaching was just that, 'an audience' that wasn't recognized again even when the inmates ran into them during the course of the day. It was sometimes viewed as impersonal or preachy. Relationships are the key, including our relationship with God and with each other. Sometimes we all need to be ready to change but more important, ready to obey God and follow Him, even if it goes against the flow. In light of Romans 12: 9-13, Chip Ingram talks about authentic community occurring when "The REAL you, meets REAL needs, for the RIGHT reason, in the RIGHT way."

*God is changing
lives FACE 2 FACE
and one by one.*

☺ 2 ☺ **DICTIONARY- MPE-9**
We've identified and work directly with 9 male inmates who are mature committed Christians, as well as leaders within the prison and within their own churches, located *Behind the Bars*. They put their faith in Christ while in prison and 8 graduated as Pastors, from the *Behind the Bars* seminary. We call them the **MPE-9** based on the **Master's Plan of Evangelism** by Robert Coleman, modeling the intimate relationship Jesus shared with His apostles. Please pray often for Eddie, Art, Boyet, Jeremy, Renato, Rommel, Oscar, Alex L. and Alex M.



2008 CHRISTMAS GIVING FOR PRISONERS

If you would like to give a donation to help us bring some joy and share the true meaning of Christmas with prisoners, please check the **CHRISTMAS FOR PRISONERS** Box on the enclosed response form with the amount you're designating for Christmas jail ministry. A little goes a long way here. Any amount is ALWAYS appreciated. Thank You!

The 'ber' months (NOT 'burr'☺) begin Christmas in the Philippines. Upon our return September 3, it was "ber na" and Christmas tunes began wafting in the muggy humid air, signaling the imminent closure of rainy typhoon season. Our Happy FACES beamed while strolling in the mall to a live piano performance of *Walking in a Winter Wonderland*. The nearly 20ft Christmas tree in our church foyer foretold of poinsettia décor in the sanctuary....ah September in Manila!



May you have a wonderful blessed Christmas and maybe this is the year to get back to the real meaning of Christmas? Forget the hustle and bustle and bucks...SIMPLIFY by giving yourself and your time to your loved ones in some special ways. Make your food and times together simple and unique, making memories. Our family reads Luke 2 before opening gifts. Everyone can take a turn reading. Enjoy this beautiful season of holiness and hope.

Happy New Year, friends!



Carolyn Price helped me prepare for a donor appreciation party at Riverview church. Along with Muriel Bean, Lindsey Sandham and Lisa Brown, they did all the work!



We always felt we were somewhere over the rainbow when staying at Bill and Roxanne's beautiful home in Grafton.



Vangie Garcia took over the women's jail ministry in my absence. We asked and she agreed to continue, teaching our monthly Kingdom Seekers with one on one evangelism every Tuesday.

We visited our Greenhills Christian Fellowship churches in Canada and shared FACE 2 FACE in Toronto and Peel.



We're all smiles with Pastor Narry Santos and wife Hazel and daughters Irene and Kira.



We brought Choc Nut from Manila and shared a good laugh while eating this Filipino favorite chocolate.

Glimpse at Your Problems, But Gaze on the Lord Contact/Donate Information



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NEW FACE—After Gracia Burnham contacted us in November 2007 about distribution of translated materials to an indigenous people group in the jail, we knew we wanted to meet.



Schedules conflicted and we almost gave up, but a week before our return to Manila, God made a way and Gracia was able to fly to Grafton and spend 4 days with us. We hope you've been able to read her books, *In the Presence of My Enemies* and *To Fly Again* or seen her and Martin's story on the History Channel, or on National Geo's show "Locked Up Abroad" or recent interviews on Larry King and other television shows. Gracia is a phenomenal and beautiful woman of God with a resolute faith and single-minded determination to fulfill God's ultimate purpose. Her gritty spirit



envelops a soft heart and gentleness as she shares her and Martin's story. She gives value and worth to every person she meets. We were inspired and changed with this brief glimpse into her current mission of life, and not of her own choosing. She just keeps going where God sends her! We can understand why God chose her and Martin for the frontline battle faced as hostages of a terrorist group in the Philippine jungle. Both were shot and Gracia watched Martin die in the rescue attempt. God brings beauty from ashes and He is actively fulfilling His purpose and intentional plan.

FAMILY JOYS—We made sweet memories with our children and grandchildren during this furlough. With healthy goodbyes, we returned refreshed with wholesome hellos. They go hand in hand. God compelled us to minister to our family on this furlough, maybe because of the busy schedule and stress during our last home visit. We prioritized our family time. We want to thank Bill and Roxanne Reynolds for loaning us a car and making us the first missionaries to stay in their lovely home, purchased specifically for ministry purposes. Thanks for graciously opening your doors and hearts to us and our loved ones. We invited John and wife Jen, Kris and her daughters, Liz and Amy, to stay with us all together as well as individually for special times with Mom cooking their favorite foods. Our Grafton house was big enough to accommodate all our guests! We had so much fun together as a family including a Virginia vacation, thanks to Becky and Den. The fishing pond and in-ground pool turned our place into a water park of fun! Staying on a farm provided tractor driving for the

kids and new experiences in small-town farm living. The "family jigsaw puzzle" entertained all our visitors. We laughed playing board games with family and shed a few tears looking thru family photos and sharing our family history so our grandkids will know about their great grandparents and family tree. We walked the family through plans in the event of our deaths in the Philippines. Odd? Not really, as this takes a huge burden of decision making off their shoulders. In the presence of Elizabeth and Amy, we talked about how God has guided our lives, shared His modern day miracles, provision, and taken care of us during both dangerous and emotionally breaking times. We wanted them to understand the reality of our living Lord and His faithfulness, so in the event we never see each other again on this earth, God's hand is on us and nothing will happen out of His plan. They can trust Him too and not fret. The Bible says to pass along God to the generations and this is the real legacy we leave our family.



Family photo from left to right: daughter-in-law Jen, son, John (JB), us, granddaughter Elizabeth 11, daughter Kris and granddaughter, Amy turning 9.



Making a memory with a late night swim. Our 3 generations shivered together but still smiled.



Elizabeth plays her trumpet and models her Filipino Malong.



Uncle JB and Liz work on the jigsaw puzzle.

BEHIND THE BARS AND BEYOND THEIR WALLS — 2009 Projects to Pray About

We will continue to focus most, but not all, of our time and energy on evangelism inside the prisons, through meeting real needs with practical action steps. In a message at our church, GCF, a point was made from ACTS 11:27-30, “Convey God’s love in spite of contrasting culture. The Gentile believers expressed God’s love to the Jewish believers by providing for their needs according to their abilities.” Through your financial partnership, we’re able to meet some needs. Remember the story of the cistern and Communist inmate leader sobbing with tears streaming down his face saying, “I want to know about your God.” Recently an inmate with no knowledge of the Christian faith, said something like, “Your God must be big of love to send His Son to the enemies.” Here’s how CONVERSIONS work: Conversion of dollars → to pesos → to meeting real needs with “no strings attached” → outward demonstration of God’s unconditional love → paralleling God’s love and grace freely given to all who believe on the forgiveness of their sins through Jesus Christ.

☺ **Health and Nutrition**

- ✓ Enhancing our **garden planting** project to raise nutritional plants for food, medicine, and feeding program.
- ✓ Purchasing **blood pressure machines** since medical supplies are scarce. We bought 2 in the US, since manual BP were only \$10 at Wal-Mart, but \$60 here! Manual is used in prison because of the cost and “life” of batteries.
- ✓ We are exploring establishing **fish ponds and** raising catfish (*hito*) **behind the bars**. Just recently, God connected us with a missionary doctor here who has been experimenting with herbal and hydroponic plants as well as fish ponds to be used as income generation for poor people with small areas and no resources. Fifty fingerlings cost about a dollar! We may put the fish in 55 gal. drums or in holes in the ground with liners.
- ✓ **Cisterns** to supply and contain a cleaner water supply as well as protection against diseases and flooding.
- ✓ **Build Dirty (outdoor) Kitchen**—Food is being cooked on the ground with rocks and bamboo blow tubes to ‘fan’ the fire.

☺ **Gospel in the Heart Language** Revelation 7:9 describes the magnificent diversity of Heaven with people from every nation, tribe, people, and language. The Philippines is comprised of over 7000 islands and 100 languages! New Bilibid Prison is a national prison, so people groups and dialects from all over the archipelago are represented in maximum security housing over 11,000 men! And as the ‘fragrance’ of Christ (2 Cor 2:14) permeates this evil place...there’s a touch of heaven.

- ✓ Distribution of reading materials in different mother tongue languages translated by Bible translators working here.
- ✓ We are excited that Pastor Troy of our daughter Kris’ church, HOPE Community Fellowship, is sending Proclaimers to us in 3 different Filipino languages! Proclaimers are a self powered presentation system for the Audio Bible through FCBH, Faith Comes by Hearing. They’re effective in reaching the world’s poor and illiter-

ate with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank You Pastor Troy, a young man with a heart for God and world missions!

☺ **Bible Study and ☺2☺ Encounters and ☺2☺ Fellowships**

- ✓ Weekly Studies/discipleship with our MPE-9 continues working through the *Experiencing God* workbook by Henry Blackaby. “EG” is Bible based and its life impact is escalating...as it did in our own lives. More prison leaders want to be involved but no funds yet for more books or leaders guides.
- ✓ We won’t really call it the banana bread ministry☺ but bringing home made banana bread each week for merienda (snack) with our MPE-9 and to share with prison guards and others, is another way to show kindness and build relationships. During Ramadan, some of the inmates couldn’t eat it but saved the bread for later in the day when fasting ended. But what’s important, is that men are coming to ☺2☺ gatherings, talking with us and inmate brothers and are being presented with Jesus, The Bread of Life.
- ✓ Monthly fellowship lunches- We provide special food at lunch and invite non-churched inmates to enjoy good food and fellowship.
- ✓ In the women’s jail, CIW, we have Kingdom Seekers monthly in which a life application Bible lesson is shared. Weekly visits evangelize, encourage and disciple inmates.
- ✓ Weekly EPO—On Thursdays, Will meets with foreign inmates (non-Filipinos) wanting to just talk and “hang out.”

☺ **Beyond their Walls**

- ✓ We’re looking for a Tagalog name. We will try and develop an evangelism outreach based on the “scared straight” program in the US. The inmates are ready to minister to their community beyond their walls. Still in the early stages, but we’re looking at bringing youth offenders or high-risk youth into the jail to talk FACE 2 FACE with our MPE and get the REALITY check ✓ about being confined in jail—the unspoken rules of control, discipline-NBP style, violence, gangs, the mental and emotional torture and destitute conditions. At the same time, they’ll hear how the Gospel of Jesus Christ can change and transform the hearts of the vilest of men... but more important, SEE the words from the vilest of men who are living proof of the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When the environment is garbage and society decries criminals as hopeless, Jesus makes a way and no one can deny the REALITY of changed lives.
- ✓ Helping families of prisoners thru providing means for visiting the jail. Even \$10 is too much for many. Some far away families can’t afford to visit the jail, ever. Some feel it’s better to send the transportation money “pamasahe” to their loved ones, rather than visit themselves. ‘One-use sachets’ are sold for shampoo, toothpaste, laundry soap, and even medicine can be purchased, one pill at a time. People don’t always eat daily.