



April 10, 2009

Mike & Cindy Gingerich

*To all who mourn in Israel, he will give beauty for ashes, joy instead of mourning, praise instead of despair. For the LORD has planted them like strong and graceful oaks for his own glory.*  
Isaiah 61:3

This past Wednesday morning I was supposed to meet with six pastors who have been working together with Village Handcrafters to reach the community around our factory. But one of the group was not there.

Pastor Ogie was out leading a Bible study the evening before. His wife, Gina, stepped out of the house to visit a friend, leaving their four children at home for just a few minutes. Since they have no electricity in their two room home they had left a small candle burning. Somehow the candle ignited a blaze that engulfed the whole house very quickly. The fire only lasted 15 minutes but because the door was locked neighbors had a hard time getting inside to rescue the children. The two younger children died in the fire and a third died the next day from his burns. Only their oldest son, Inok, who is 8, survived.



*Pastor Ogie's house was completely destroyed in the fire.*

On Wednesday afternoon I visited the charred stick frame that was once the family's home. Witnesses pointed out the back corner of the bedroom on the floor as the location where the blackened body of the three year old Nadine had been found. As I imagined the fear and pain of the little girl a few hours before, I stared at the cursed corner. But something there caught my eye. On the floor in the very place where the little girl had died there was a burned and tattered Tagalog Bible.



It was as if God was reminding me that He was there with Nadine as she huddled in the corner. Even there, even then, He was in control. And that he will give Pastor Ogie and his wife beauty and joy in exchange for these ashes and mourning. Please pray that God's purposes would not be thwarted in the lives of this family and the church they shepherd over. Please join us in praying for God's glory to be planted like an oak in their lives.

The family lost their home and all their humble belongings in the fire. If you would like to assist them during this time of need you can donate to Action International Ministries Philippine Disaster relief fund. Please note that it is for Pastor Ogie fire relief. The address is below.

Thanks for your prayers,

Mike

If you would like to give toward our support you can make checks payable to Action International Ministries, P. O. Box 398 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 or 3015 A 21st Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1, Canada. Note that your check is for support of the Gingeriches.