



August 18, 2009

Mike & Cindy Gingerich

Hello friends and family,

Back "home" in the rainy Philippines! Yesterday I slipped and slid up the muddy mountain path that leads to the new home of Pastor Ogie and his wife Gina. Ogie and Gina are the young couple who lost three children in a fire a few months ago. After some setbacks with a contractor while I was away, we are back to making some improvements to the formerly woven grass structure which we helped them purchase after their fire. As I was starting back down the path Gina stopped me. She began thanking me again for all the help I had coordinated for them but her thanks soon gave way to what was in her heart. The pain of losing her "babies" is still very real to her. She shared how she still misses them so much and finds herself crying a lot. With more tears now, she explained how her remaining son, Mark, often reminds her that his brothers and sister are in Heaven now and that crying will not bring them back. I tried to share some words of comfort with her but I suspect the tears running down my own cheeks communicated more than my words. Please pray for God's Holy Spirit to surround this hurting mother with His comfort.

Cindy wrote some thoughts about our time in the USA that I was supposed to send out a few weeks ago. I hope the better late than never rule applies here and that I can semi-redeem myself by including her note below:

The majority of our time in the states was spent with family, which was good, especially good for the children. They certainly enjoy time spent with cousins. We are so thankful for the good relations our kids have with their cousins on both sides of the family. They all got along so well.

During the month of June we were in Iowa. The first weekend we celebrated my parents' 50th anniversary. Around 350 people attended the open house, which I felt was not only honoring my parents, but God honoring and fun as well. My Mom had preserved her wedding dress, as well as my Dad's wedding suit and one of the bride's maids dresses. Then my brother had a suit that had belonged to my paternal grandfather. One child of each of us four siblings wore these outfits for the open house. The four young people in old clothes stood in the reception line for the entire time and gave people something to talk about while waiting. We also put together some of my parent's old "Super 8" home movies onto a DVD we showed while people ate. The last weekend in June, was my 25 year high school reunion, as well as a "Miller" family reunion. My class reunion was not that well attended, but it was good to connect with those who were there.



In July we spent time primarily with Mike's family, both in Maine, and Ohio. We were not able to see Mike's Dad, which was disappointing, but we know God has a purpose for all things. It was exciting to see the new church building that Mike's home church is now using. This is something they have talked about constructing for the past 15 years. Not only is the building much larger, but the attendance has increased as well. It was good to see God's faithfulness in spite of the country's economic struggles.

Both Mike's home church in Ohio and mine in Iowa are part of the same "Conservative Mennonite Conference." The annual, four day, church conference meeting was held in Iowa the weekend before we left. It was fun to be a part of that and seeing a lot of people we don't often get to see. I especially enjoyed the challenge given during the missions meeting on Sunday, encouraging all of us to build relationships with those around us, to be Jesus to those who may not know Him.

Limited travel time prevented us from visiting all of our supporting churches this year, which was unfortunate. However, we were encouraged by the five or so that we did get to visit. I also consider it a blessing to just be able to totally remove myself from the responsibilities I have here, and really enjoy time with family and friends. But now we are back and need to get back on focus again.

We are glad to be back. Reuniting with Moriah has been something new and fun for us. He has been spending his weekends back home and we've been able to go to a couple of his games and catch some of the others on TV. The team has only won two games so far but he has had fairly important roles in both. The following is a quote from his coach which appeared in all the newspapers here after they won a game against last year's champion:

"Before the game, (our rookie-pastor) Moriah (Gingerich) gave us a neat lesson in Bible history with the David and Goliath story. We played like David in this game," UP coach Aboy Castro said. He is enjoying school but it sounds like his classes a way to easy for him which may be building some poor study habits. Get him in your prayers as he reaches out to team mates.

The other kids are happy to be back in school with friends, Today is Lydia's 15th birthday so if you'd like to mail her a greeting her email address is beepser@gmail.com Thanks for your prayers. Drop us a note. We would love to hear from you.

Blessings, Cindy for the Gingeriches

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.