

May 24, 2010

Mike & Cindy Gingerich

We have been having record high temperatures for the past couple months. Each week just seems to get a little hotter. Highs are in the upper 90's and it is humid. Lows most nights are around 85 or 90. Every day this past week the heat index was around 115. Here in the Philippines people do not own thermometers or talk about the temperature highs or lows but everyone talks about the fact that it is hot. This summer seems to be the hottest anyone can remember.

Now try to imagine being nine months pregnant, and being in labor in this heat. Ugh! During my four pregnancies back in the US the heat (or what I

considered hot then) really bothered me. However, by the time I was in labor I was always in a nice climate controlled hospital. So I truly cannot relate to the mother who was in labor the other day at our clinic.

We have one small delivery room and a secondary room, or overflow room. Since the regular delivery room was occupied by two mothers in labor and the one-hundred other moms filing through for their prenatal checkups, I headed to our also overflowing overflow room. This room functions as our storage room for medical supplies and patient records. I was searching through records looking for files of prenatal patients who were returning to have their second or third child at our clinic. The room was hot and crowded.

I felt so sorry for the young mother on the bed beside me. She was covered in sweat and moaning in pain. Short bursts of semi-relief from the 98 degree heat were being offered by the oscillating electric fan. But it just was not enough. Forget air conditioning and private rooms. Also in the room was another lady who had just given birth. Her other children, husband, and sister were also there enjoying the new little bundle. A third mother was also in labor and her husband was attending to her. The room was packed.

Are you getting the picture: full room, hot, no privacy, all adding to the God-promised pain of child birth? Not exactly what I would imagine as a part of my preferred "delivery package." But in this case, the means is more than justified by the end. When it is all over and a mother cradles the "fruit of her labor," the joy of new life is made even sweeter by the bitterness of this journey.





When I learned a couple months ago that it was supposed to be a long hot summer, I was thankful; Thankful because we want to move as far ahead in the building project for the new birthing center as possible before the rainy season starts. In the next couple months we need around \$86,000 in order to complete the shell of the three story building and get everything under roof. Two floors are roughed in now. Then once it rains, we can complete all the finish work inside. The new building will not allow for each

patient to have a private room for labor. But instead of everything basically taking place in two very small rooms, we will have two large spacious rooms for delivery, a nice large room for recovery after delivery, and another room for doing pre-natal check-ups. The building will have a large waiting room where church workers will share about being born again with patients and child-birth and gospel videos will be shown. We are not necessarily planning on air conditioning but have designed a building with high ceilings and good ventilation that will be more comfortable during hot season. Patients will still experience pain during labor but they will have a little more privacy and space to feel like it is not so crowded. When I think about what we can look forward to, once the new building is finished, I know all the hard work and sacrifice, not unlike those of child birth, will be well worth it.

Please pray for God's continued supply for the building project. If you would like to help financially (even small donations add up) you can send a check to the address below and note that your gift is for the Birthing Clinic building project in the Philippines.

Moriah just left for Las Vegas! He is headed there, and then on to LA, with his University of the Philippines basketball team. They will be at a couple Impact Basketball training camps <http://www.impactbball.com/> Moriah was pretty excited because a number of NBA players and guys entering the NBA draft are usually at these camps. The cost of this trip would be over \$4000 per player but team sponsors are covering everything ... even spending money. God is good.

Cindy



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.