

Read on the need

Rita & Steve Read
Pastoral Leadership Development in the Philippines

*And the things you have heard me say
in the presence of many witnesses
entrust to reliable men who will also be
qualified to teach others.*

2 Timothy 2:2

Steve and Rita, why are you returning to the Philippines?

The need

- 3.2 million pastors worldwide are untrained or undertrained.
- Up to 48,000 pastors in the Philippines are untrained or undertrained.
- Many have only one or two study books and make a less than \$20 a month.
- Undertrained leaders, though earnest, eager, and sincere, need guidance to effectively resist heresy by teaching sound biblical truth and discipling young Christians.

The opportunity

- The Filipino church is exploding. The Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) wants to plant 50,000 churches this decade—and they are doing it! All the Bible schools and seminaries cannot keep up with the demand—even if the poor pastors could afford ongoing education!
- They also want to mobilize 200,000 missionaries this decade!
- The Filipino church invitation: *Mentor ministers and mobilize missionaries*. “You are needed in the Philippines.”

The vision

- “If you want to make the greatest impact for God’s Kingdom with the time you have left—*train leaders*,” a respected church leader counsels.
- “Reach a pastor, you reach a church. Reach a church, you reach a community. Reach a community, you reach a nation. Reach a nation, you reach the world,” encourages retired ACTION missionary, Glenn Johnson.
- Ministry multiplication: God has called us to *mentor* and equip pastors, especially among the poor—leaders, who will, in turn, train others.
- God has also called us to join the Filipino church in *mobilizing* a tremendous movement of missionaries into the harvest field.

Steve and Rita, how can I partner with you as you prepare to return to the Philippines?

Pray

- We are currently at 45% of our needed monthly budget.
- We praise God for 100% of our outgoing expenses! Please continue to pray for a ministry vehicle.
- Please pray that we can leave for the Philippines by October 20, 2008!
- Please pray for our teen and ‘tween children—grace in the midst of much transition.

Share the vision

- Do you know of churches, friends, family members, home groups, Sunday School classes, with whom we could share this vision and need? Please call us (517-523-2798) or email us (reads4@gmail.com). We’d love to hear from you!
- Could you let us know? If you plan on supporting us at a later date, rather than at the present, could you please email us of your plans? This helps us estimate our departure better. Thank you!
- We praise God for your interest in and prayer for this ministry and our family. You indeed a friend, partner, and blessing!

In His grip, Steve *Rita* Stephen *Shannon*

More M&M’s!

Some may remember those delightful, tasty prayer triggers—colorful, wonderful candy treats that remind us to pray for the Reads who are *Mentoring Ministers* and *Mobilizing Missionaries*? Recently, someone anonymously took the prayer trigger a step further, leaving “Tear ‘n Share” Peanut M&M’s on our porch with the accompanying note:

*From this time forward,
these shall be no longer
“Tear ‘n Share” but
“Share a Prayer”
M&M’s.*

*As we eat the different
colors let them remind us
of the themes for prayer.*

As we eat—pray for . . .

*Yellow—The Light of the
Son to Shine in us and
through us.*

*Blue—The Rushing
Mighty Wind of His Spirit
to blow upon us.*

*Green—Growth in God’s
Grace.*

*Red—The covering of His
Blood.*

*Orange—The safety of
those ministering in
dangerous places and
under the attack of the
enemy.*

*Brown—Those stained by
the “mud” of sin.*

Thank you, Anonymous!



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