

## March-April 2006 Newsletter

Hello to our family, friends and prayer partners! We are in the middle of the Filipino summer, and it is 'hotter than blue blazes', as we say in Texas! We would like to share a little bit of what has been happening here in Cebu and the surrounding areas of ministry.

### Graduation Marathon:

Filipino schools finish near the end of March. Robert was invited to speak at a graduation ceremony down in Mindanao during this time. As the word got out that he was speaking at one, then he got invited to four more ceremonies. So we jokingly called the end of March 'Graduation Marathon'. Graduations are real big and heavily celebrated here in the Philippines. Everyone gets an award during these ceremonies! They are very proud of their students and want to show them off with these awards.



### Leyte and BMMI team:

Most everyone is aware of the landslide that occurred in Southern Leyte a few months ago. Through this tragedy, we have been able to make contacts with the Southern Leyte government officials and leaders, and have joined efforts in helping with food, and medical help during this time! Most of the surrounding areas near the landslide have been evacuated. These people have not been able to provide for



their families because they have had to leave their houses and farmlands,



and live in shelters in different areas. These are the specific people that we are trying to help. We have been blessed by those churches that have sent money for these needs. We are currently using these funds to help provide rice/food as needed for those affected.

In the beginning of April, we were blessed to have a BMMI team come to Southern Leyte, to help out with the evacuees' needs. The team members were Dr. Ralph Izard, Bro. Jim Brewer, Dr. Donald Head, Mrs. Coty Rosenbrandts and Miss Alicia Ramshur. They helped with general medical care, gave much needed medication, and passed out supplies of vitamins. We also had several national workers and pastors help out with tending to the pharmacy, counseling and evangelism during this time as well! We saw over 1000 patients and we praise the Lord that 233 of those patients made a profession of faith. Praise God for the commitment and sacrifice of everyone who made this trip successful!!!

This will not be the last time you hear about our helping in this area. We are still planning to send more rice, and help with rebuilding these people's lives, with building projects and with their spiritual needs. Please pray

that we can begin bible studies in these areas and that God will raise up someone for the work. We have already had several show interest in our coming back to do just that!

### **Simbalay Bible Studies:**

It is so exciting to watch the ministry here in Cebu grow. In this last month we began more new bible studies and now have 33 small groups meeting each week. God has not only added new bible study groups, He has added a whole batch of new leaders. If you remember we joked about setting 6-8 new place settings at the table for new leaders in our last newsletter, well now we need every one of those places. God is so faithful. We have been praying for a few months for new leaders to emerge and now they are coming from all sides. Each one of these men has accepted the Lord in the ministry of our home bible studies and is now feeling the Lord's call to share the Good News with others. They have recently begun a specific leadership training time and will soon be starting their own new bible study groups. Please join us in praying for these excited men as they answer God's call in their lives and carry the Gospel to their family, friends and neighbors.

### **Baptism:**

Baptizing new believers is always an honor! On Easter morning, we were blessed to watch and participate in 4 new believers following Christ in baptism. We have many that are still learning what baptism is all about, and waiting for the right time to be baptized. We already have a few that are ready, and are planning the next baptism date. Praise God for his faithfulness, and for the leadership that is helping to show these people what it truly means to have a relationship with Christ, and to follow Him in this most important step.



### **Bro. Lee Poe and Bro. Tracy McMillian:**

We had the pleasure of having Bro. Lee Poe and Bro. Tracy McMillian come visit us towards the end of April. While they were here, they attended several bible studies, and also participated in the ordination of one of our leaders, Nonoy Benculado. Nonoy has been a faithful friend and leader in the ministry here, and has worked out God's call in his life for the past two years. Several leaders and his family joined with us for food and celebration as we all took turns praying with Nonoy for God's blessing on his life, his family and the ministry that he is a part of! Please continue to pray for Nonoy as God uses him to help with the ministry here in Cebu.



The next day after the ordination, Robert flew with Bro. Lee and Bro. Tracy down to Mindanao to be a part of a summer Youth camp, directed by Pastor Lisas. The camp was greatly touched by their teaching and preaching, and thoroughly enjoyed their coming to help out! We hated to see them go back to the states, but we were blessed that God allowed them to come see us.



### **Our Family:**

Our homeschooling is finally over, praise God! We are enjoying our summer break! The boys and I will be coming to the states the end of May through the end of June to participate in my sister's wedding ceremony. We are extremely excited, and ready to see family and friends!! Please pray for us as we prepare for this trip. Robert will be staying here in the Philippines, traveling around to surrounding ministries in our work.



As always, we are very thankful for all the prayers, cards sent, emails and support for the ministry here. We could not do this without you!!! You are all important to us! May God bless you all!!

Your Cebuano family,  
The Murphy's