



# Mindanao Moments

Real Hope & Transformation in Christ

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**"To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map."**

– William Carey (1761-1834), Pioneer Missionary to India

**"In the vast plain to the north I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been"**

– Robert Moffat (1795-1883), Pioneer Missionary to South Africa

It's impossible to communicate all that takes place here on the mission field, but we try to provide you, our partners in ministry, with a glimpse of some of the things we are involved in. More and more we are seeing that *partnerships* with like-minded ministries are absolutely critical to effectively reaching the world with the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Bukid sa Paglaum** is an exciting example of God's people in Mindanao coming together for ministry exposure, to network and to develop ministry partnerships. By the way, *Bukid sa Paglaum*, was an idea that the Lord placed on Gloria's heart and we were really excited about how the Lord put all the details together.

## Bukid sa Paglaum

The Psalmist wrote, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity!" (Ps. 133:1). This was the sense all the participants had at **Bukid sa Paglaum** on November 4-5 when 20 mission and ministry groups serving in Mindanao gathered at Hope Mountain.



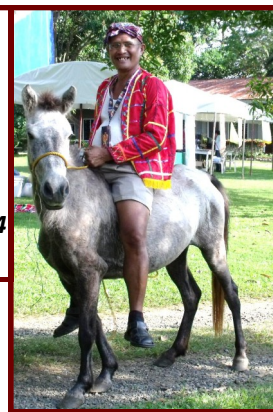
**The purpose of Bukid Sa Paglaum:** That God would be glorified through Christian organizations partnering together to gain ministry exposure, network for ministry opportunities and celebrate how God's gifts to each group benefits the Body of Christ through: Mission Mobilization, Discipleship Ministries, Cultural Arts & Products, Livelihood Projects, Vocational Training, Agricultural Products, Health Education, etc. What an exciting two days as representatives from the following organizations gathered: **CBAP, WorldVenture, Mamre, Global Impact, Cross-cultural Ministries (Tribal Horse Evangelism & Bio Sand Filters), Family Life Ministries, Campus Crusade for Christ, Child Evangelism, Tribal Missions Foundation, A Salaam A Likum, Kalayag/Simkris, Well of Life Community Development, OMF Literature, Love the Children Foundation, Tribu Youth Professionals, Haven of Hope Orphanage, Asian Center for Missions, Edge Radio, and Chungsung—All Nations.**

The various groups had booths where they presented their unique ministries. Training seminars and demonstrations were scheduled, and the highlight was the cultural dance presentation. *Kalayag* organized the dancers who came from various

groups. What was really exciting was that the skilled dancers from *Kalayag* were able to teach and incorporate unskilled dancers into the presentation. *Tribal Missions Foundation* recruited and organized the mission lectures. *Global Impact* coordinated logistics and provided a zip-line and children's activities. *A Salaam A Likum* provided medical and prayer support. 256 people registered and many more came from the community for the presentations but did not register. 89 people attended the mission presentations. This gathering was wonderful and many indicated that this should become an annual event!

**Pastor Romeo Oclao, CBAP Mindanao Tribal Chairman, on one of the horses from Tribal Horse Evangelism.**

**Following Bukid sa Paglaum, 3 more horses were delivered to CBAP Tribal Pastors. Tribal Horse Evangelism has now provided our tribal pastors with 14 Horses through Hope Mountain! PTL!**



**Joel Quitco, CBAP Community Development Worker from General Santos**



**Hope Mountain Agricultural Display—  
Fruit, Vegetables, Plants & Flowers all grown at Hope Mountain**



**Tribal Dancers — Shiela Mae Ursal, Hope Mountain Office Worker, is one of the key dancers. The Tribal Dancing was one of the highlights!**

## Challenges & Blessings

November and December have been a whirlwind. With *Bukid sa Paglaum*, mentoring, staff and board meetings, correspondence, numerous ministry responsibilities, a week-long conference in Cebu and a week in Manila, we're now playing catch up and making preparations for Christmas. Our Hope Mountain office staff and workers will be taking vacations on a rotating basis, so we will stay in Davao City to make sure everything runs smoothly. We'll be taking a few days off after the New Year to get a little rest.

We were greatly blessed attending the *Conservative Baptist Association of the Philippines (CBAP)* Biennial in Cebu. It was the largest Biennial ever with over 600 delegates from all over the Philippines, along with CBAP missionaries and guests from a number of countries including Hong Kong, Canada, China, and the United States. Everyone sensed the presence of God, the worship times were exceptional, the speakers were top-notch, and the vision for world missions was greatly expanded. Timothy & Dr. Rene Chanco conducted a seminar entitled, *Paying Attention to Yourself: Caring for Those Who Serve*, which focused in on the need of Christian workers to make sure they take care of themselves both spiritually and physically in order to minister effectively and to finish the race well.

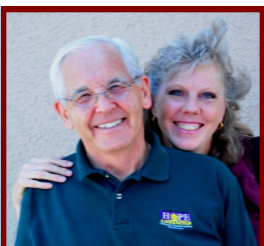
As we get a little older, we realize that there are more physical issues to deal with. Our week in Manila was for medical purposes. Gloria had a follow-up endoscopy and biopsy. We praise the Lord that a small lump that was previously found in her esophagus, where it enters the stomach, is now GONE and medication rather than surgery will take care of the problems. There was real concern because both Gloria's father and brother died of esophageal cancer, and her sister recently had surgery to correct a problem in that area. Timothy had cataract surgery on both his eyes. His natural lens with cataracts were replaced with new, multi-vision lenses. Day by day Timothy's eyes are healing and the miraculous thing is that he now has 20-20 vision and may never need glasses. In preparation for surgery, Timothy was required to have a medical check-up. It was discovered that family genetics have caught up with him and he was diagnosed with diabetes. Praise the Lord that there is no damage and the early detection enables it to be under control. We praise the Lord for providing us with excellent physicians and medical facilities for His healing touch. The Lord is good!

### PRAISE

- We praise the Lord how He works in and through us to do what needs to be done on a daily basis. He seems to always provide us with just enough energy, resources and the help we need each day.
- Praise the Lord for taking care of our physical needs.
- Praise the Lord for the way God is working at Hope Mountain. Events like *Bukid sa Paglaum*, the changed lives of people using Hope Mountain, and the progress being made in upgrading the facilities and expanding the ministries are very encouraging.
- Praise the Lord that we were able to find an office assistant for Dess Ventura at Hope Mountain. **Shiela Mae Ursal** is our newest Hope Mountain employee and is doing well. We praise the Lord how He has provided!

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Continue to pray for **Neva Carson** (Gloria's mother) as she goes through a huge transition after the death of Bill. Pray that the Lord will give her strength, peace and encouragement, and that He will meet all her needs.
- **Don't forget to pray for missionaries and nationals serving in restricted and difficult areas of the world.** One of our speakers at the Biennial in Cebu was imprisoned in a restricted nation for 23 years for his faith. This is reminder of the potential cost involved in serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and God's sustaining grace through difficult times.
- Pray for **Mike & Ghed Miguel**. Continue to pray that they will develop a strong prayer and support base, and they will be able to be in Mindanao by early February. The challenges of raising support in the current economy is difficult, yet a weak economy does not restrict our sovereign Lord in providing for His servants. We desperately need Mike and Ghed's help at Hope Mountain!
- Continue to pray for **Brian & Patty Shiel** as they continue to develop their prayer and support base. Pray that they will be able to be in Davao City by next June or early July so their children can begin school at Faith Academy in August.
- Pray that the Lord will open the doors for opportunities to share the love of Christ and the real meaning of Christmas. **As in the U.S., many here in the Philippines do not have a clue about the meaning of Christmas and God's gift of salvation through Christ.**
- We ask for continued wisdom, strength and health as we serve here in Mindanao. Please pray that our support levels will stay consistent. Our support has dropped off because of the economic situation, but we're confident that the Lord will continue to provide. **Above everything else, pray that the Lord will be glorified in our lives.**



#### POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS—TRANSFORMED LIVES!

Thank you for being partners with us!  
May your Christmas be filled with joy and hope  
as you celebrate and proclaim the birth of the Savior!  
**Maligayang Pasko — Joyful Christmas!**

Love in Christ, *Timothy & Gloria*

