

Mindanao Moments

Real Hope & Transformation in Christ

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February
2012

Powerful Partnerships — Transformed Lives!

Powerful Partnerships—Transformed Lives is what WorldVenture is all about! An this is what world missions is all about! People whose lives have been transformed by Jesus Christ and begin to live out that new life in Him, in turn transform villages, towns, cities and nations.

The *Core Passion* of WorldVenture is having a “Deep, Lasting Impact for Jesus. Our passions is simple. We want to see deep, lasting impact for the good news of Christ around the world. And we are confident that deep, ***lasting impact is most possible through long-term relationships.***”

It is impossible to share the countless stories that we have about people transformed in Jesus Christ, but one thing we can share is the fact that the most significant changes come through long-term relationships. Those we have poured our lives into through ongoing, purposeful relationships have, not only demonstrated significant changes as they have trusted Christ, they are our source of great joy! The Apostle John was absolutely right when he penned these words: “I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in truth” (3 John 4-NASB).

TRANSFORMATION

We’ve shared before about **Jovert Dayo**, but we want to give you an update about what God is doing in his life through the transforming power of Jesus Christ. **It’s a story of grace and transformation that continues to unfold.**

Jovert Dayo is a young Filipino from the Manobo Tribe of Mindanao. His parents died when he was young and he was bounced around from family to family as he grew up. His sister, who is twenty-five years older than Jovert, is married to a tribal pastor who is on the staff of Hope Mountain.

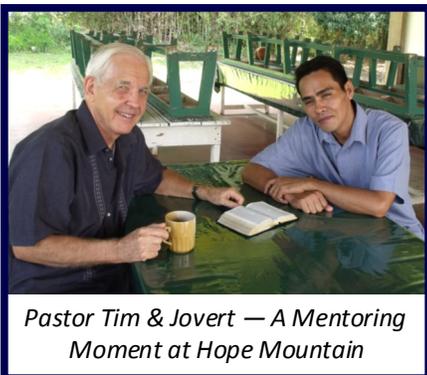
We arrived in Mindanao in the Spring of 2007 to begin the process of redeveloping Hope Mountain into a *Center of Transformation*—a holistic ministry that focuses on ministering to the whole man. Shortly after our arrival, Jovert showed up at Hope Mountain to live with his sister and brother-in-law. To say the least, if one was to look at Jovert Dayo at that point of time, they would say that he didn’t have much hope. His language was crude, he smoked, drank, was a womanizer, and a poor, undependable worker. But, by the grace of God, his brother-in-law had shared the Gospel with him and he had prayed to receive Christ. God began a work in him.

Little by little we began to see changes in Jovert's life. A few months after his arrival at Hope Mountain, Timothy had the opportunity to baptize Jovert in the Talomo River. He began asking questions about the Bible and indicated he wanted to learn more. A group of tribal pastors and leaders were beginning a ten-month training program (one week per month) at Hope Mountain, and Jovert was allowed to go through this training program which he finished. He

continued to express his desire to learn more, so arrangements were made for him to attend the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center (MBRLC) in Bansalan where he received practical training in organic agricultural, Bible, evangelism and community development. Shortly after arriving at MBRLC his brother, who worked at a rubber plantation in a remote area, was brutally murdered. In a tribal context, as a male sibling, he would be expected to take revenge upon the killers of his brother. God was gracious! The staff and students at MBRLC came around Jovert to pray for him and encourage him, and God restrained him. Jovert was a new man in Christ and now he was living for Christ! We attended the wake for his brother and could see the peace that the Lord had given Jovert—as a



*Pastor Tim & Pastor Romeo Oclao baptizing Jovert in the Talomo River
In November 2007*



Pastor Tim & Jovert — A Mentoring Moment at Hope Mountain

believer in Christ, even his countenance was different. Transformation through Christ is a real thing!

Jovert continued his training program at MBRLC and had the opportunity to spend about one month doing outreach in a remote Muslim community. During this time God began to work in his heart and he began to have a burden for the souls of Muslim and tribal people in Mindanao. Jovert completed the eight months of training at MBRLC and we had the opportunity of attending his graduation.

But the story doesn't end here. Jovert continued to express his desire to learn and to be able to serve the Lord, so arrangements were made for him to enroll in the two year pastoral training program at the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary (PBTs) in Davao City. He is finishing his third year and is now working on completing a four year Bachelors Degree in Pastoral Studies. **Jovert is preparing to serve the One who transformed his life!** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17-ESV).

The process of transformation is not always quick nor is it easy. Jovert carries a lot of baggage from his previous life. He was orphaned at an early age; his upbringing was fragmented and without good Christian models; his moral foundation was built on shifting sand; his educational background was weak and his *world-view* is tribal. In all honesty, Jovert struggles; academics are difficult for him and he struggles financially, but he has trusted the Lord and has persevered. Jovert continues to work part-time at Hope Mountain while he studies. We have set up a matching funds program for him where every peso he saves for his education, we match it. This has enabled him to begin to understand and develop a mindset for savings, enables him to grow in discipline, and gives him dignity. As Jovert has continued to work at Hope Mountain, he has become more responsible in accomplishing his assigned tasks and in managing his time. (By the way, time management for people from tribal backgrounds is really not part of their worldview). Jovert is beginning to understand the importance of the stewardship of time in order to be an effective servant of Christ.



Gloria, Jovert & Pastor Tim — February 2012

Currently we're working with one of our key leaders, Pastor Lani Boado, who has many years of experience in ministering to both city and tribal people. When Jovert graduates from PBTs, we would like him to work with Pastor Boado in the outreach work that is taking place in the tribal areas in the Tagum area, north of Davao City.

Jovert is an example of one who is a recipient of God's amazing grace, and an example of a work in progress. Biblical transformation is built upon relationships and takes place over a long period of time. We are thankful that the Lord brought Jovert into our lives. We are thrilled to see how the Lord has worked in his life and that He has given us the privilege of having a small part in Jovert's transformation.

- Pray for Jovert as he continues to prepare to serve Christ. And pray that the Lord will do a work in his life far greater than anything that he could ever imagine--that he will be used to proclaim the transforming power of Christ and faithfully disciple men, women and children.
- Pray for us that we will continue to be able to speak into Jovert's life and others who God brings into our lives.
- Pray that the next few months of transition here in Mindanao will be productive. Our deep desire is that we will leave behind fruit that will remain and will multiply itself abundantly!
- In April we'll be in Manila to attend a wedding and get our physical exams. Pray that our medical tests will go well.

Thank you for being a big part of our ministry team through your faithful investment in our lives through prayer and generous giving.

Love in Christ, *Timothy & Gloria*