

# Bringing HOPE to the Philippines (June 19, 2008)

"set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:13

Well I guess my newsletter now officially has one big change to it... that is, it is no longer just about me. It is also going to be about my beautiful wife and how God develops and uses us as a couple in ministry.

We just got back from a great honeymoon along the east coast of Delaware and Virginia after getting married on June 1st. It was a wonderful time of rest and getting to know one another better. We had a beautiful wedding and feel indebted to everyone for their love and support. It has been amazing to see how God has been blessing us through the lives of others. It is really hard to know how to say thank you to everyone. During our ceremony we incorporated one of the Filipino wedding traditions called the unity chord. It basically represents how the married couple is now united in love forever. The Philippines has truly become a part of our lives and has touched our hearts very deeply.

Although we have only been away from the Philippines for 2 months now, it feels much longer, almost too long. As we have begun to talk and to pray about our return on July 2nd, a real sense of joy and excitement is growing in our hearts. We miss spending time with the children during the feeding program and spending time with the children's families in their homes and praying with and encouraging them. We especially miss helping families get medical care for their children, visiting them in the hospital, encouraging them, and seeing God bring healing to their physical, spiritual, and emotional lives. This is something that really brings both of us great joy and has become one of the driving passions to bring us back to the Philippines. It makes me think of the woman who touched Christ's garment and was healed. Not only was she healed of her physical disease, but I believe that Christ insisted on making a person to person connection with her because he wanted to heal her of the shame and emotional pain that her affliction brought her. In the medical cases we have become involved in, we have seen God bring such healing to peoples lives.

Please pray for us as we return to the Philippines on July 2<sup>nd</sup> to continue to serve God as a couple. We plan on being in the Philippines for about 2 years before taking another furlough. Please feel free to contact me with questions, thoughts or concerns or if you would like to know more about a particular area of the ministry we are involved in (remember, we really love to hear from you). As I always say, you are more than welcome to come and visit us, we would love it.



Our prayer card... let me know if you'd like a copy mailed to you.



The unity chord ceremony.



Our kids!

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