



Why is this woman smiling?

**Details—
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News from Project Hannah!

During a recent trip to California a lady stood in the book signing line. When it was her turn, she said, "I wanted to tell you that my brother works with Trans World Radio in the Philippines. He translates and produces the lessons for Women of Hope that your foundation funds! He loves his work and I can't wait to tell him that I met you." If I had had my wits about me, I would have gotten her name, her brother's name and all that good stuff. But I very rarely, if ever, have my wits about me. But hearing that sure warmed my heart!!

Gracia

The Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation

In Support of: **Missionary Aviation** **Tribal Missions** **The Persecuted Church** **Muslim Ministries**

May 2009

Sowing Seeds...Reaping Blessings!

Do you remember a project of The Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation we called the Lanao Development project? Well, I'm not surprised if you don't but it has yielded some amazing results. A recent article on the World Tea Expo website stated the following:

"As possible war looms in the Provinces of Lanao, there are some positive developments in bringing peace to Mindanao. The Lanao Development Team, along with Perfectly Natural Herbs, is bringing hope and healing to Muslim/Christian relations. For the past 22 years the Lanao Development Team has been treating the sick, educating the poor and bringing livelihood to Muslim Filipinos."

The Lanao Development's Team's newest project has been to start Perfectly Natural Herbs, a non-profit, non-stock corporation. It has two goals. One is to train local farmers in organic farming by helping them plant herbs that are used in making Talabonga Tea. This raises the standard of living in places where [militant Muslims] are actively recruiting members and thus helps farmers provide for their families by peaceful means."

Tom O'Brien
CEO
Perfectly Natural
Herbs



Herbal Processing Plant
Capacity to dry 1000 kilos of herbs per week

I remember when Martin & I were traipsing through the jungle we talked about ways that someone could develop businesses in the poverty stricken areas of the island we were on...perhaps a fish cannery or factory...to enable those Muslims to support their families without having to resort to joining the Abu Sayyaf as a means of realizing their dreams.

Now, it is very gratifying to have a foundational part in the development of Perfectly Natural Herbs. They have a website which I think you would enjoy. They have products for sale from that website and you are welcome to try some of them for yourself! Do you know what Talabonga Tea might cure?

Visit their website:

www.perfectlynaturalherbs.com

You'll be amazed at what God can do with our small gifts. I certainly am!

—From STAR article by Edu Punay

“In Our Own Language!” - Cebuano

It was my friend, Bob Stauble's voice on the other end of the phone. I used to hear his voice every morning and afternoon on “radio sked” when I would call the tribal station that he worked in. Then, a few years later, we became co-workers in town when they moved out of the village to do the supply buying. Maybe you don't know what supply buying is. Bob bought everything that Martin flew into the tribes...from peanut butter to toilet paper to nails. Bob bought it, boxed it up, and took it to the hangar.

I asked Bob what was up with him and his family? It seems God has given them a new ministry. He and Nancy have translated chronological teaching materials into the Cebuano language and hold seminars for pastors, Bible teachers, and seminary students all over the place where we used to live.

Each teacher that takes the seminar goes home with a set of lessons. Each set is 5 books and contains 48 lessons, 94 color pictures and 2 maps. Which isn't all that remarkable for us who live in a land where there is an abundance of books and lesson helps. But to these folks, it is awesome! Bob says they have seen many tears shed -- especially by the older folks who are handed their materials as they come into the seminar. They hug the lesson packet to their chest and exclaim, ***"I never thought I would see anything like this in our own language. Thank you! Thank you!"***



It is amazing to think that in their 4 years of seminary study, these chronological books are the only books these students will receive. All they receive from their other classes are photo copies of important pages from books and hand-outs. That must be why they are smiling so big!

Almost 1,000 sets of materials have gotten into the hands of pastors and teachers in the last two years! Imagine the ripple effect that represents - each pastor taking it back to their congregation (some in very remote places), each Bible teacher taking it to their Sunday School class or into the public schools for religious instruction classes, each seminary student not having to do the tedious task of translating lessons from English to Cebuano.

Bob and Nancy figure that if they could print another 1,000 sets, they could begin to cover many other areas of the Bukidnon Province. They have a local press who is just "itching" to do it for them at a special price. All they need is the money. Bob said, ***"Maybe God has someone special out there who would want to see good teaching materials in the hands of Cebuano pastors and Bible teachers in their own language."*** Hmmm. Maybe it is us!

Oh - how much is each packet, you ask? \$13.00

Special Courage Award

Do you ever use that program on your computer that counts the times you use “I” and “my” in your document or letter? It is supposed to tell you if your letter is too “self-centered.” Well, at the risk of making this letter too “me centered” I want to tell you about receiving the “Special Courage Award” at the National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Awards Ceremony in Washington, DC on April 24th. This award was given by Attorney General Eric Holder and it was a huge honor. I truly don’t think of myself as either courageous or worthy of this award, but I feel that this was a gift from God and a gentle reminder that — even after seven years — we are not forgotten.

“In His kindness God called you to share in His eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, He will restore, support and strengthen you, and He will place you on a firm foundation.” I Peter 5:10 NLT



**Gracia receives the
Special Courage Award
from
Attorney General, Eric Holder**



Here I am with Kansas Congressman Todd Tiahrt and his wife, Vicki, holding the cardboard cut out of "Flat Stanley". This photo will be returned to a class of elementary school students in Kansas. Their "Flat Stanley" made it to Capitol Hill.



That "star-spangled banner" "STILL waves!"

Let Me Introduce You...

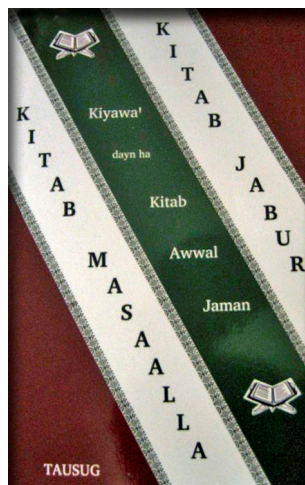
Despite the economic downturn, things are looking pretty good at the Martin and Gracia Burnham Foundation! Our Board met last month and voted to give funds to three different ministries. I want you to meet the members of the Foundation Board. These are friends who Martin used to visit with (and drink coffee with ☺) when we were in the States. I love every one of them — and I trust them to make wise decisions when we meet to disburse funds.



Left to right: Bob Conard, Tim Wiesner, Dr. Marilee Wiesner, Gracia Burnham, Jake Shaffer, Joyce Middleton, Lynette Pretorius, Jerry Winkley & Orpha Eyres

Missing from this photo is one of the most important people on the board, my friend, Jack Middleton! He was being bandaged up after a racquetball accident this particular day. Oops. He probably didn't want me to tell that story!

One of the projects we were able to fund that day was the printing of Psalms and Proverbs in the Tausug language. Your eyes are among the first to see the cover of this book! Two copies were printed and I was privileged to receive an advance copy. Because of your generous gifts, we were able to send a check to cover the first half of the printing costs. Here's a thank you note I received from the Ashleys:



“We can never thank you and your foundation members enough for your help with the dictionary reprint and Irene’s support (plus finances as well for Psalms & Proverbs enabling the printing of 500 copies at just the right time!!!).”

And I thank YOU again for your partnership with us. Thank you for giving and praying.

Give God all the glory!

Gracia

*A copy of God’s Songs
and Words of Wisdom
is now available
in the Tausug language!*

*If you wish to have your
name removed from our
mailing list, you may use the
enclosed envelope to do so.
Thanks!*

For Donations
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