

The Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation

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

December 2010

"I've Never Done This Before ..."

"I'VE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE" is what I have been telling people when they see my heavy schedule these



days. When the kids were home, I limited my traveling and speaking so I could be home with them. Now that everyone is "grown" I'm off and running, I guess. Quick count of flights this year – over 65. Who says the airline industry doesn't do a good job??

Maybe the best news of the year is that I became a Grandma! Tristan Paul Burnham was born to Jeff and Sarah in April. Soon after, Jeff moved his little family to Botswana, Africa, where he flies for Flying Mission Services. I've already been to visit – that was 9 different flights alone!! His letters home are so interesting.

Mindy and her husband, Andy, quit their jobs in May, and packed up and moved to Bolivia to run a guest house in Santa Cruz for a couple that was due to go on furlough. They have been a blessing

there. So proud of those kids! I'm planning to visit them soon, as well. As it usually turns out, I will speak while I am there - which will be interesting since I don't know Spanish.

I'm getting a taste of what I put my parents through when I went to the mission field with Martin many years ago. It's not real fun to have your kids on the other side of the world! Thankful for SKYPE and Facebook, that's for sure. And I am grateful for God's leading in their lives.

Zach is still here in Kansas. He is in his second year of college. He lives at home and commutes to school. I'm pretty happy to have him "home" still. And he is happy when I occasionally show up back here in Kansas during all my travelling so I can replenish the groceries.

Thank you for praying for me during all this "busyness." If I didn't think this was God's plan for me, I wouldn't do it. I have stories too numerous to count about meetings where God did something awesome. . .or sitting beside just the right person on an airplane. . .!

**"Praise the Lord...
He has sent us a mighty Savior...
just as he promised through
His holy prophets long ago."
Luke 1:69,70**

Gracia

Memories of 2010



Project Hannah Update

I got to be in on an awesome phone call this morning. A conference call between Kansas (me ☺), Africa, and Singapore. I spoke with Ruth Mbennah (*Africa coordinator*) and with Serene Yang (*Asian coordinator*). The gist of the phone call was for me to pass on thank-you's to **YOU** for "praying for women you have never seen before". Both women work with the Project Hannah prayer movement – a ministry that is growing all over the world.

Serene said that in the Philippines alone, the 211 prayer groups have been life changing for women. Filipinos are into text messaging and they get over 12,000 texts a year. Texts about what God is doing in women's lives or asking for help or prayer. Serene sent special greetings from a lady in China who gave "all she had" (our

equivalent of \$ 20.00) and was regretting not having more. When Serene encouraged her that others all over the world are giving what they can as well, our Chinese sister said, "say thank you to those who are sending!"

In Africa, good things are happening. Ruth shared about speaking to about 50 women in Angola. As she spoke that day, one lady kept watching her closely. As the lady left, she told Ruth that she had been planning to kill herself the next day. Her attending Ruth's meeting rescued her from that plan. African governments, Ruth said, are beginning to set up some laws to combat domestic violence against women.

Please visit: www.projecthannah.org for ways you and your family can pray.

You Can't Elude Arrest Forever ...

I was drinking coffee, visiting with friends several months ago when my cell phone rang. I excused myself and took the call. It was the Office of Victims of Crime in Washington DC. They wanted me to be aware that there had been an arrest the day before in the Philippines of yet another of the guys involved in our hostage taking. When she gave me the name, it didn't mean anything to me. I didn't know the real names of our captors. I only knew their "Abu names". "Do you know his alias," I asked her? "Yes. It is Hurayra."

Hurayra! Hurayra was the one "assigned" to me when we hiked at night. I had problems with night vision and was always falling on the trail and when they saw what a hard time I was having, they assigned Hurayra to help me. He found leaves that glowed in the dark. I never figured out if there was some florescent or luminescent mold that grew on certain leaves, but he would tuck them under the strap on the back of his backpack and I would follow that "glow" through the jungle at night.



Hurayra was fearless. He would run into a raging gun battle yelling at the top of his lungs. He was the one that asked Martin to teach him English at one point. He would come every day with his notebook and pencil and a small gift (something to eat or a cup of coffee) as payment. Soon after 9-11, Hurayra left with some of the leaders and never returned. We always wondered about his fate.

Well, now I know! Hurayra is in the custody of the Philippine military and will go to trial for kidnapping and murder. I can't help but be grateful that Hurayra is not dead. His day of grace is not over. Maybe in prison, he will hear the gospel of Jesus.

I Want to Introduce You to this Lady!!

I grew up reading stories about Dr. Paul Brandt, a medical doctor and missionary to India. He is the man who they say, "unraveled the riddle of leprosy". He discovered that the injuries sustained by leper patients weren't caused by the disease, but by pain insensitivity. He wrote the book, "The Gift of Pain".



I was impressed with how he and his wife (also a medical doctor who performed eye operations and saved the vision of thousands of people) took these "untouchable" lepers into their home and helped dispel the stigma attached to leprosy.

This couple could have used their talents to become very wealthy, but instead labored in an obscure village in India. They were the recipient of many awards and honors and I always admired them deeply.

Imagine my surprise when I found myself seated across the lunch table from Dr. Margaret Brandt while I was at Mission Fest Seattle in October! What an honor to visit with this great lady for a few moments. Margaret is over 90 years of age (Paul passed away in 2003). She is witty and sweet and very humble. And can still tell a very good story! A 2010 highlight for sure!

Martin & the 180

I came across these pictures the other day. The first is Martin when he was 11 years old. His parents had just moved into Bato (*an Ibaloi tribal village in the Philippines*). This was taken the day the MAF pilot came to get him and take him out to boarding school.

Quite an airstrip there in Bato. Length: 450 feet straight up a mountain. 20% slope at touch-down. 28% slope on up to the turnaround at the top of the mountain. Being the non-pilot that I am, those stats didn't mean much to me until I had the chance to visit Bato one day, and walked up the airstrip from the village below. I had to stop several times to catch my breath on the way up the strip. Of course, takeoff was down the mountain, off the cliff, instant altitude. Thus began Martin's love of flying ☺.



The next picture is Martin almost 30 years later. This time he is the pilot flying supplies into his parent's village. Same airplane, believe it or not! A Cessna 180 that NTM bought from MAF somewhere along the way.

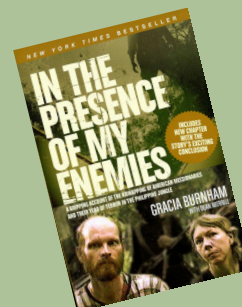
The village of Bato now sends missionaries of it's own to reach other Ibaloi villages with the Gospel. Paul and Oreta Burnham (*Martin's mom and dad*) have left quite a legacy there. I'm so proud of them.

One of the projects that The Martin and Gracia Burnham Foundation helps support is Ibaloi translators who are working on the Old Testament.

Distributions from the Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation 2010

Project Hannah (matched gift)	20,000
Contingency training for missionary pilots	14,000
Ibaloi Translation Team support	9,000
A new tribal ministry in SE Asia	3,000
Housing support for ministry of Irene Hassan	3,000
Martin Burnham Scholarship for foreign students	
Calvary Bible College	2,000
Jail ministry in Manila	800
Tausug scripture distribution	600

*Thank you
for your partnership
with us!*
Gracia



Tyndale House Publishers has re-issued a soft cover version of my book. It includes a new chapter with an update on my children, a few adventures I've had (trips back to the Philippines), the story of my "finding" some former Abu Sayyaf in a maximum security prison in Manila along with exciting developments there, and what life is like for me now.

Thank you,
Tyndale. You have been
so good to me!

*If you would like to order a
copy of this soft cover book
for \$ 12 + shipping,
please contact Gracia at:
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