

How can I express my appreciation

to each of you who make this Foundation possible. Many of you have given faithfully for 10 years to support the projects of this ministry. How grateful we are for you! And to those who have joined the team more recently, we welcome your partnership! Your prayers and faithful sharing of your resources have made a huge difference for many ministries and have had a profound effect on many lives.

Thank you for following the leading of God's Spirit in your giving. It is humbling to be able to direct such funds toward these ministries that are so dear to my heart.

Gracia

The Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation

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

June 2012

Looking Back on 10 Years ...

June 7 marks the 10-year anniversary of my rescue and of Martin's death in the jungle. As you can well imagine, I always have mixed emotions on that day. During our captivity, Martin and I had begged God to let at least one of us come home to raise our children. We didn't want them to be orphans. When God answered the way He did, I was shocked. The strong one died, and the weak one came home to carry on! Seemed kind of backwards to me.

Many places in Scripture it talks about how God doesn't often use the wise and the mighty. He often uses the weak (as seen in I Cor. 1: 17-31). I came home feeling pretty weak. During our ordeal, God took me to my lowest to teach me that I had to depend on Him for everything!

As people graciously sent money in with their sympathy cards, someone wise encouraged us to start a Foundation. There is nothing fancy about our Foundation. No paid staff. No overhead. As money comes in, we give it. Pretty simple.

So here we are 10 years later. The Martin and Gracia Burnham Foundation has donated over a half million dollars to mission organizations thus far. We look back on what God has done and we are truly flabbergasted!



Our strategy has been to fund ministries that otherwise wouldn't have funding. We keep close tabs on them to watch the impact that they are having and these ministries have become very special to us over the years. We have had a lead role in radio broadcast funding. We were the "seed money" that helped start several ongoing ministries. We have supported nationals as they translate the scriptures and reach other nationals. We have helped with special flight program projects since Missionary Aviation is near to our hearts. All of this has happened because you have given so generously!!

I may have seemed like a "poor pick" for God to make back 10 years ago, but doesn't it just illustrate so well the "God choosing the weak and powerless" idea? The end of the I Corinthians passage sums it all up. God chooses weak things so that, "If anyone is going to boast, let him boast only of what the Lord has done."

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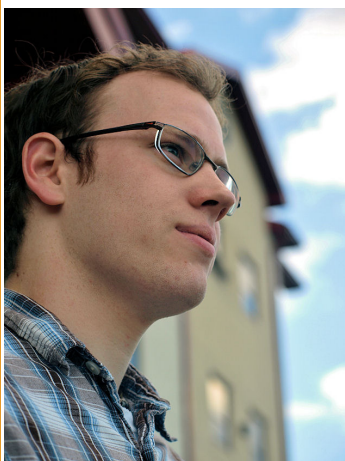
www.graciaburnham.org

"Contact Us"

"Send a Message"

A Family Conference at Sonic Drive-In ...

TEN YEARS AGO, my kids and I drove to Sonic for a “family conference”. I couldn’t drive because of my leg wound, but Jeff had his learner’s permit. While we waited for our soft drinks I asked the kids, “Can God use us? We used to be a family of 5. Now we are a family of 4. Can God still use our family?” Each one said that, “Yes. They thought God could still use us.” That was then....this is now...



Zach is at Calvary Bible college studying Bible and getting a degree in Voice Performance. I am actually touring with “Evidence”, the group he sings with, for the month of May. On May 27th, the anniversary of Martin and I being taken hostage, “Evidence” performs at Northwest Bible Church in Kansas City. The pastor of Northwest is our good friend, Clay Bowlin, who spoke at

Martin’s funeral. Clay is also the newest member of The Martin and Gracia Burnham Foundation Board. It will be nice to hear Zachary sing every day!!

My daughter, Mindy, and her husband, Andy Hedvall, will celebrate Andy’s graduation from New Tribes Bible Institute in May also. I plan to sneak away from “tour” for a day or two to attend the ceremony. We love Andy and are very proud of him. I will also get to squeeze their little one, Felix, while I am there! I love being a grandma. And Mindy is such a good mommy!



Jeff is still living in Botswana, Africa, with his little family. Sarah is expecting their second child (a girl!) in August. Jeff is in charge of the King Air flight training for Flying Mission Services. If you know anyone who would like to join them in Africa (pilots or mechanics), they need HELP! Little Tristan is 2 years old now and he is tall enough to reach the light switches!

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*to the Burnhams
all my love with
many God bless you all
Zach*

A treasured family photo of us at the Sonic Drive-In
Rose Hill, KS—2002
Picture was later signed by President George Bush!



Breakfast on a Banana Boat ...

I spoke in February in Long Beach, MS—down where hurricane Katrina hit. I stayed in the Marriott where the news media got that famous footage of the water rising into the second floor. My pastor friends told stories of how they had seen God's hand over and over in that whole Katrina situation. Not the first time I have heard stories of God bringing good out of devastation!

Anyway, on Sunday night a banana boat pulled into the harbor there. Most of the crew was Filipino. They had heard that I was going to be speaking and all wanted to come, but the customs processing took too long and they missed the event. Would I want to go on board the ship the next day for breakfast and do a sort of "meet and greet" with them? Are you kidding? Of course I would!



As I boarded the boat before dawn and watched the hustle and bustle of the containers being loaded onto the trucks, a song popped into my head. "Come, Mister tally man, tally me banana. Daylight come and me wan' go home. Day-o, day-ay-ay-o. Daylight come and me wan' go home."

Early the next morning, thanks to Loren and Sally Lohrbach, I was allowed aboard the Dole Costa Rica to meet with some wonderful Filipino seamen. I took books to donate and we got LOTS of pictures. (If you know anything about Filipino culture, picture taking is a MUST! And plan on taking LOTS of them!) I'm hoping those books will get passed around ship to ship and travel far!

**What do you
eat
on a Banana Boat
for breakfast???**



**Orange juice
Rice
"Sausages"
&
Don't forget the soy sauce!
I loved it!!**

I Told Him I Would Cut His Pay if He Quits ...

The Martin and Gracia Burnham Foundation expressed their appreciation to Jack Middleton for 10 years of exemplary leadership last month.

Jack and Joyce Middleton came to me over 10 years ago and expressed that “they thought they could help me for a few months.” That was 10 YEARS ago!! I wholeheartedly agree with my friend who once stated that, “they didn’t know which institution Gracia would be in today if the Middletons hadn’t come to help!”

Thank you, Jack for all the boxes of books you carried in to meetings for me. Thank you for helping me hire Lynette (my awesome secretary!) Thank you for stepping in and planning Martin’s funeral when I didn’t know how. Thank you for your advice on things...backed by the wisdom gained by many years of ministry. Thank you for the McDonalds stops during our many travels when I had a hankerin’ for a Happy Meal. Thank you for being present during media interviews so I didn’t feel alone. Thank you for taking my car in for oil changes.



Jack Middleton Gracia Joyce Middleton Ollie North

As you retire from being Chairman of the Board, I can’t help but ask God to richly reward you for blessing me!!

Not the normal duties of “The Chairman of the Board”, huh? No salary. No benefits. (Okay, so you did meet Oliver North here at my house!) You have truly been “the greatest among us” as you have served well.

A Family Conference at Sonic Drive-In ...

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I still travel and speak a lot. A quick count shows that, by the end of May, I will have spoken 85 times so far in 2012. Every speaking event is great! I really mean it. Last month I met a marine that was in the Philippines, involved in trying to rescue us. I often run into old friends! And always make new ones! And I hear lots of stories about what God did for people when THEY were going through a hard time.

Looking back on the day I was rescued vs. today, I believe our story has made a significant impact. But I am not one to focus on statistics or success stories or money amounts. What this reflection has done is made me get on my knees and say, “Thank you God! You have been so good to us!”

Gracia

Recent Grants

Project Hannah
\$ 20,000

Ibaloi Translation Team
support
\$ 12,000

Housing & ministry
support of Irene Hassan
\$ 3,200

Jail ministry in Manila
\$ 2,000

Martin Burnham
Scholarship for
foreign students at
Calvary Bible College
\$ 2,000

Christer training center
for Muslim Ministries
\$ 1,000

Mission Safety
International
\$ 500

Global Empowerment
(Agta “missionaries”)
\$ 500

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

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