



# The Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation

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

December 2012

## AND THE WINNER IS!!

The winner of “The Most Unique Fundraiser” award goes to Verna Froese of the PENNY PATROL!!

Every month, Verna sends money to the Martin and Gracia Burnham Foundation. The donation is money she FINDS laying around! True. She searches for money and sends whatever she finds. She recently sent this “penny patrol” e-mail to let me know what she found during the month:

**502 pennies**  
**38 nickels**  
**127 dimes**  
**53 quarters**  
**2 5-dollar bills**  
**\$ 42.87**

**WOW!**

Sometimes there is some “donated money” that she is able to add from people she knows or people who see her searching. She tells this story: One person questioned me as I was looking under a parking meter for coins. “Looking for money?” I explained what I was doing, that I’d give all the money I found to charity. He said, “Here.” and gave me \$ 20. I always wonder when something like that happens whether they actually believe it will go to charity, or if they think I will keep the money for myself. But either way, God prompted their gift, right?”

One dollar bill she found was only a partial one. She wasn’t sure it was enough to count, but when she took it to the bank they didn’t look very long before they traded it for a whole one. One month, she found a large amount of money, so took it to the police dept. The police told her that if no one claimed it, they would call her and it would be hers.

On September 29, she reached a milestone. She surpassed the \$ 200 in coins mark for the year. We can learn a lot from this dear lady! She has a heart to give—and God works it out so she CAN give!

Congratulations, Verna, for winning our “Most Unique Fundraiser” award. We cherish your gifts...and those of **ALL** our faithful partners!

*‘Don’t be afraid! . . .  
I bring you good  
news of great joy  
for everyone!  
The Savior—yes,  
the Messiah,  
The Lord—  
has been Born  
tonight in  
Bethlehem...’  
(Luke 2: 10-11 NLT)*

## My Ebenezer Box



I have been invited to speak at several 100th Anniversary events this year. I have taken along my "Ebenezer Box" to show everyone. You didn't know I had an Ebenezer Box? Ebenezer is a Hebrew word and it means "thus far has the Lord helped us". In the Old Testament, several times the Jews piled up stones of remembrance. A memorial to a time when God helped them defeat giants bigger than themselves. And when their kids asked, "What does this pile of stones mean?" they were able to say, "This is a time in our nation's history that God really came through for us!"

My Ebenezer isn't a pile of rocks. It is a box. Inside are "memorials". Things that tell of a time when God did something huge for our family.

- ◆ Things like a tribal knife that some villagers carved for Martin years ago. A memento of the ministry with New Tribes Mission that we loved.
- ◆ Some food wrappers that we had in the jungle. Cracker wrappers, the lid from a peanut butter jar, some coffee packets. Martin used to get them out of his backpack and smell them when we were starving. A memento of God's provision for us when we really needed it.
- ◆ A malong (the long piece of batik material) I had throughout our captivity. It served as my skirt, a blanket, our towel, our suitcase, a stretcher, etc, etc. More reminders of God's provision.

- ◆ Tausug comic books. Our Foundation's printing of these started the whole story of finding some Abu Sayyaf in prison and all that has transpired in the years since with some of them coming to know the Lord.

One day, my kids are going to look in this box and say, "What is this junk?" and they will toss it. Or their kids will do that. 100 years down the road, I doubt that anyone will know about Martin and Gracia Burnham. The other day I was thinking I should make a REAL Ebenezer. A monument made of stone. So when generations of Burnhams down the line ask, "What is this stone doing here?" they will hear about how God was faithful to some Burnhams a long time ago...and they will hear our story.

Then I thought. . .there IS a stone. There sure is! It is about 4 miles east of town in a cemetery on the prairie. A monument to Martin Burnham.

None of us knows the length of the race we are to run. We are not told in the beginning. And on every man's tombstone there is a dash between the birth date and the death date. I've heard it referred to as "the dash between the dates." Every tombstone has that small hyphen that represents a life. We only get one dash. No one gets two. There are no "do overs" and everyone dies.

Let's be encouraged again to live a life worthy of the Lord. The only thing that will truly last for eternity is what you and I do for God here on earth. Let's make the "dash" that we are given one that counts!

God bless you this Holiday Season!

*Gracia*

## Good Tidings!

Got an interesting e-mail forwarded from a man who serves with China Partner. He wanted us to see that there is a Chinese version of my book and it is being distributed! Thank you for sending us this pic, Erik!



It has also been published in Spanish, Dutch, Korean, Swedish, French and German.!

### Good Tidings, Indeed!

To receive these mailings via e-mail or to remove your name from our mailing list, contact us at : [www.graciaburnham.org](http://www.graciaburnham.org) "Contact Us" "Send a Message."

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