

The Martin and Gracia Burnham Foundation

December 2022

In support of: Missionary Aviation

Tribal Missions

The Persecuted Church

Muslim Ministries

Just Another Gracia Story!

"Lord, would you provide someone to open the door for me at the Post Office?" That was my prayer as I pulled into the parking lot. I'd been on the road for weeks and was running late that day. I'd spent hours the night before, in my hotel room, getting 60 books into mailers so I could send them off the next day. Knowing the number of books that will sell at an event is guesswork. Sometimes our guess isn't right. The Forest Springs ladies retreat in Wisconsin was one of those events. I needed to mail books off to the ladies who had purchased them.

I'm perfectly capable of carrying boxes of books into a building. I do that all the time. But navigating the door while holding a box of books is a different matter. Thus, my prayer that day. I needed help. Twice. Cause there were two boxes.

I got out of the rental car and picked up box number one. As I crossed the parking lot, there was a lady in front of me. Maybe she was the answer to my prayer! As she opened the door, I called, "Could you hold the door for me?" She held the door. I glanced at her as I passed. "Wow. She looks Filipino", I thought. She held the 2nd door into the service area as well.

As I thanked her, I said, "Are you a Filipina?" She looked intently at me. "Yes, I am. Are you Gracia Burnham?" I was a bit shocked. "Yes. That's me", I answered. She said, "I was just this morning thinking about you. And what are the chances that I would meet you here in this Post Office?! I've been

carrying around a package in my car for weeks to return to Amazon. Today I decided that, while I was out, I'd get it mailed off. And - I was just thinking about you! And here - I held the door for you!"



Me and "Princess Lea"

If you know me, you know that I can get a bit loud. And if you know Filipinos, you know that they can get a bit loud! Needless to say, it was suddenly very loud in the post office! Most everyone had stopped what they were doing and was looking at us.

Well, I had another box to get, so I asked her if she would help me with the door a second time. After I walked in with the 2nd box ... she said something that made the hairs on my arms stand up. She said, "My cousin, Tess, was one of the other hostages held with you by the Abu Sayyaf." You could have knocked me over with a feather!

(cont. on back)

Just Another Gracia Story!

(cont. from front)

People! God is involved in the tiny details of your life! God sees EVERY detail! His eye is on the little sparrow. He calls each of the stars by its name. He counts the number of hairs on your head. He hears the smallest cry for help ... "Lord, would you provide someone to open the door for me?" And, wow! Does He answer! What a joy to be reminded of that ... out of the blue ... while running errands!

Besides being a bit loud, you need to know that Filipinos are super friendly and kind and giving! Days later, after finding out that Lea is involved in ministry as well, seeing where she lives, being the recipient of her yummy Filipino food, and her attendance at a banquet where I spoke, Lea and her husband dropped me off at the airport as I headed for home. A new friend!



I've been reading a book: *A Third of Us* by Marvin Newell. A third of the world is unreached with the Gospel. What can I do from my easy chair in Florida? I can pray for those who have gone and are engaged in reaching unreached people. They have a hard task - and I can hold them up in prayer.

Here is a way that you can be informed and pray for those who have ventured out in faith to foreign lands. Subscribe to receive weekly or daily prayer requests using this link:

<https://ethnos360.org/pray>

Then, if you enjoy reading the *Ethnos360 Weekly Prayer Bulletin*, why not share it? Forward the link to your friends, family, small group, pastor or missions committee.



Dan Smith with his new Calvary University mug.

The Calvary University President's Dinner was fantastic this year. I try to go each year if I can. As I was seated around the table with some fellow alumni, catching up with their lives, I glanced over and sitting at the next table was the guy who sang at Martin's funeral 20 years ago! I was hoping I could catch him before he left so we could get a quick picture together. Martin loved Dan Smith's music. Here we are. I think we should take up an offering and buy that guy some coffee!

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5 (NIV)



The latest cuddly Burnham ... Edmund! Thank you, God, for this little guy born to Zach and Mallory.

Gracia

To Give to the Foundation

Use the enclosed envelope

Or online:

<https://graciaburnham.org/give>

To Give to Gracia's Personal Ministry

Please make checks payable to: Ethnos360

312 W First St, Sanford FL 32771

Do not include her name on the check but use a separate piece of paper indicating: "For the ministry of Gracia Burnham"