



*Serving the Lord to Reach
Unreached Language Groups in
the Philippines with New Tribes
Mission*

Issue #30, December 23, 2013

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."
~ Luke 2:12-14

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To make a Christmas/end of the year donation to reaching unreached tribes in the Philippines, please send to the following:

New Tribes Mission
1000 E. First St.
Sanford, FL 32771-1487

Or you can follow the contact links on line at
www.ntm.org or
www.reachthetribes.com/page5.html



Dear friends and family,

As we look back on 2013, this has been a year of both blessings and trials for us. The blessing of continuing in ministry and seeing the Lord work to reach the tribes with His message, and the trial of developing a long term illness significantly weakened my body. The blessing of finding out that my illness is not life-threatening, though it does have some debilitating effects. The blessing of seeing the Lord do incredible work in the lives of believers all over the Philippines, and the trial of seeing the devastation of rebel activity, an earthquake, and a powerful typhoon. The blessing of being able to assist in relief efforts, and of being able to visit family in Texas for a few weeks. The blessing of seeing the beginning of recovery from my illness, and the trial of knowing it will be a long recovery process. The blessing of seeing our own kids grow, and of seeing the Lord work in the lives of young people at Faith Academy through Ginny's teaching.

So who is Jesus to you? To us He is our Savior and Lord, the one we have chosen to follow with our lives. This Christmas season we are reminded of the greatness of God sending His own Son, God in the flesh, to live on earth as one of us, and pay the penalty for our sins. Make no mistake, though the world is inherently hostile to all who choose to follow Christ and be His disciples, He will come again and set this world right. We may not understand right now all that He is doing or why He is doing it, but we can trust that He does love us, and is actively involved in drawing us ever closer to Himself. Christ in a manger, a humble child, born into this world of wickedness, to lead us in the way we should go.

The Philippines had a lot of news exposure this year, with rebel activity, followed by a major earthquake, followed by the biggest typhoon ever to hit land. There was and still is immense suffering caused by these catastrophes. Our mission was able to have a hand in distributing a significant amount of emergency relief aid to the survivors of the typhoon. We are not a relief agency, but we adjusted our operations for a time because the needs were so great.

In the language consulting world, 4 families finished their national language study on Luzon, 5 new missionaries began national language study in Mindanao, and 1 missionary family got started on their tribal language study. The 4 mission stations that we checked last year continued their discipleship teaching for the tribal believers in their respective local languages, and we are preparing for the work to carry on to a greater extent next year.

God is also moving among our Palawano brethren, as the Gospel goes out and we see lives changed. We lost 2 friends from the tribe where we lived – one to murder and another to cancer. Yet the work is carrying on. I was able to accompany a translation expert early in the year to make some assessments on the Palawano Bible translation in one area, and again we saw how great is the need for more teaching in so many areas.

Towards the end of the year, right before Christmas, I was able to spend 4 weeks in Texas. It was so encouraging to see the faithfulness of our brothers and sisters in all the churches back home, even as the world today grows more and more hostile to those of us that have chosen to walk with Christ.

So now as we carry on faithfully, we so appreciate your prayers for the ministry, for health, and that the Gospel may continue to go forth! We are so thankful that He has enabled us to serve Him here in the Philippines, and we will continue to press on in service to Him!



Dilto, one of my language helpers in the tribe, was one of the ones we lost this year.



We also lost Nerdak to lung cancer. He believed in Christ before he died.



Ginny, Sarah, and her soccer team did a ministry project for Burmese refugees in Malaysia.

The Year in Pictures (2013) – Family and Ministry Events



Palawano Bible Check



Visiting Palawan Ministries



Palawan Ministry Team



Language kickoff up North



Ilocano/Agta Team



Mindoro Tribal Visit



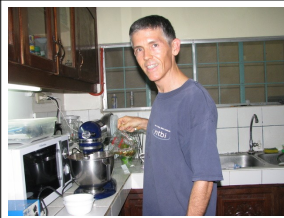
Sunken Ferry in Mindoro



Mangyan House



Mangyan friends



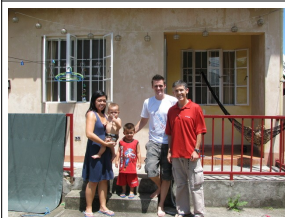
Learning to Cook



High School Play



Friends from Texas



Tagalog Family Finish



Moving to New House



Summer Birthday



Preaching at a Funeral



Ginny Teaching



Visayan Ministries



Market Language Mindanao



Soccer Team



All Saints Day



Typhoon Relief



Typhoon Devastation



Typhoon Relief



Visitng Texas



Airport in Moscow



Layover in Singapore on the way to the Philippines



Home Together Again

Timeline of 2013 events:

January – Returned to Palawan with a translation consultant to do a comprehension check/ reliability assessment of the Palawano Bible.

February – Flew into the Agta tribe up North to get a new family started in language study. After this I accomanied our church to Mindoro to assess a new ministry opportunity with Mangyan people.

March – We went with our friends to a church conference and reunited with the leaders of the Mangyan people there. I started my strict diet in earnest and had to learn to cook according to a specialized plan.

April - Sarah was in the high school play "Beauty and the Beast." Then we had an encouraging visit when some friends from Texas came to stay with us for a week.

May – Performed a final evaluation for the husband of a missionary couple, the last 2 missionaries that were studying Tagalog.

June – Moved to a new rental house!

July – Celebrated Sarah's birthday! Also took some time to rest over the summer.

August – I preached at the funeral for one of NTM's first missionaries in the Philippines. Also school started again, and Ginny had a whole new set of students to teach!

September – Flew to Mindanao to do a language evaluation on the 5 missionaries studying Visayan.

October – Ginny and Sarah took a trip to Malaysia for a soccer tournament and a ministry project with a group of refugees from Myanmar.

November started with All Saints' Day. Then Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines and NTM Aviation delivered relief supplies to some of the islands that were in the Visayan region. I then returned to Texas for a medical checkup and to visit some family.

December – I flew back with Isaac, had a stopover at the airport in Moscow, and then a long layover in Singapore where the airport gave us a free tour of the city. Finally we were all back together again.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ~ George for all the Olsons in the Philippines