

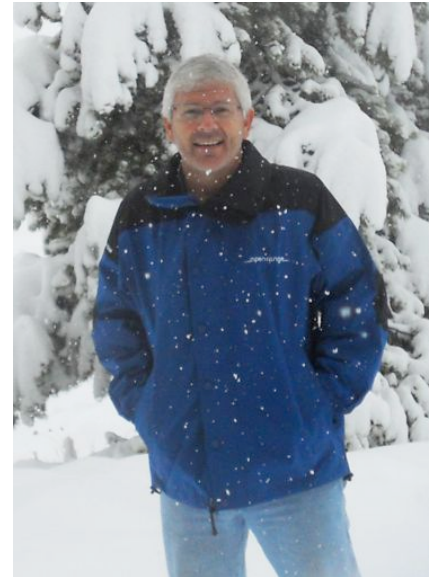
Between Two Lives

December 2011

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,



It's not always so easy – being squeezed between two lives – one in the tropics and one in the frigid US. But so has been my life for the past three months – by day a missionary on furlough (supposedly back for a “break” from the work); by night, when the Philippines wakes up, on call for numerous communications with the islands concerning ministry.



Such a dual-life routine has led to more than a few less-sleep-filled nights than I might have wanted, but at the same time, I also have to admit that it's been sort of fun to be simultaneously involved in two parts of the planet at the same time!

STATESIDE I've been occupied with almost daily appointments with friends, new acquaintances, family, and churches. And what a joy that has been! Besides being able to share with groups in a lot of different churches and groups here, I have also been overwhelmed by the joy of reconnecting with so many people whom I have not seen for years. Honestly, every morning I wake up excited about who I get to see next after so many years! I must admit that God has blessed me with a truly wonderful family and encouraging group of friends here in the US, and reconnecting with them has been more than a breath of fresh air for me – maybe a typhoon of fresh air! My only regret is that my furlough this time has been too short to allow me to connect with everyone I had hoped.

Besides a calendar filled with daily engagements, my time in the US has also been busy with other Philippine back-up-ministry activities. One has been gathering more information and supplies for ongoing ministries on the islands, particularly the radio ministry. Supporting the marketing aspect of our “Island Breeze Handmade Cards” has also been a major focus, and with approximately 1900 cards sold, this livelihood project actually helped keep five island families in employment during the past two months. Thanks to those of you who bought cards!

PHILIPPINE-SIDE, local leaders are now taking charge of almost all ministry on the islands including church leadership, campsite management, agriculture, and radio operation – one of the blessings of my return to the US for awhile! Even so, however, my weekly involvement in the Philippine ministry has still been significant.

One of the major island ministry thrusts while I am gone is to reach every home on the island with the gospel. I gave this assignment to the churches, not only to promote a new outreach, but also to give the local leaders a broader opportunity to exercise leadership in the churches in my absence. This I see as key to an eventual full turnover of responsibility. Yet my part in this project did not end with simply giving the assignment. As part of assisting in follow-up to this outreach, as well as encouraging the brethren on the islands, I have continued recording radio programming (2-3 hours of work each day) and then sending it over for daily broadcasts.

Living two lives has certainly been a challenge! And yet with this challenge has also come the joyful opportunity to multiply my influence in Jesus' name to two continents at once. And what a blessing that is!

Thanks so much to all of you who through prayer, encouragement, and support have walked with me these past years. For in the way that you have encouraged me, you too have become part of Jesus' life on two continents.

Grace and peace in the name of the Lord we serve,

Dave
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Praying for Two Continents...



Thanks again for all of you who have been praying for me during the first months of my furlough. I can see the Lord's answers in many ways. But please don't stop! A lot is still ahead and I am daily aware of the need I have for the empowering and leading of the Holy Spirit both for my activities here as well as for our workers back in the Philippines.

Here are a few updated prayer requests for the next month:

1. **Travel mercies**-- God's continued protection as I visit El Paso, Texas Nov 30-Dec 1, then to Nevada and California Dec 1-12, Hawaii Dec 13-15, and back to the Philippines on Dec 16. Pray that the Lord will use me as an encouragement in each area as well as help me to accomplish everything necessary while in the US. Thanks!
2. **Local leaders** – please pray that the Lord will continue to encourage and strengthen those leading ministry on the islands in my absence. Please pray for the tract distribution and ongoing campsite project as well.
3. **Radio** -- please continue to pray for the licensing process of our radio station. Far East Broadcasting Company has submitted an inquiry to the Philippine National Telecommunications Commission. We hope to know this month the results and if God is moving in the direction of this partnership and licensing.
4. **Plans for next steps in the Philippines** – please pray that the Lord will continue to clarify His plans for the islands when I get back, particularly how quickly I need to entrust various ministries to local leaders. Please pray as well for our Christmas and New Year joint fellowships on December 24 and 31 respectively as well as our leadership meetings the last week of December, during which we will discuss the Lord's leading for 2012.
5. **Time with the Lord** – as my time winds down in the US, please pray that my walk with the Lord will continue to be refreshed, so that I may be fully prepared for all that He has ahead of me once I arrive back in the Philippines. Thank you so much!



For more information on what's happening Philippine-side, I recently updated my blog, giving a rundown of the ministry there. Please feel free to check it out! The address is:

www.fianews.wordpress.com