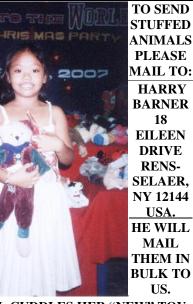


TALLY FOR CHRISTMAS 2008 STUFFED ANIMAL GIVEAWAY: 500 NEEDED/ 0 RECEIVED



18

RENS-

USA.

MAIL

US.

A BLC GIRL CUDDLES HER "NEW" TOY.





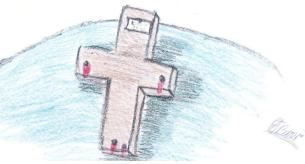
400 STUFFED ANIMALS AWAITED THEIR NEW OWNERS, WITH NUMBERS ATTACHED THAT CORRESPONDED TO THE #S WHICH THE CHILDREN HELD.



*PEPPER=Paul and Elvie's Praver & Praise newslettER

Paul M. Barner Ministries Philippine Church Planters Vol 20 No 1 **PEPPER'S 20TH YEAR! 1988-2008**





OUR 10 YR OLD ARTIST PJ REMINDS US THAT IN FEBRUARY, WE THINK OF LOVE.

Email Address: **BLCKIDS@YAHOO.COM** www.barner.org

Field Address: Rev. Paul, Elvie, PJ & Abigail Barner **Barner Learning Center** PO Box 82,224, Davao City 8000 **PHILIPPINES** Support Address: **Christian Aid Mission (801-BLC)** PO Box 9037 Charlottesville, VA 22906 USA

IS (LEFT) NATIVE DANCES PORTRAY THE TRANSITION FROM PAGAN TO CHRISTIAN.

(RIGHT) WITH NO BABY AS JESUS, A BLC KID LAYS ON THE FLOOR.



BRINGING CITY KIDS TO THE COUNTRY "We need to help the poor tribal mountain people!"

An idea suddenly formed in my mind. One of the government councilors was challenging those attending our biweekly DCL (Davao Christian Leaders) meeting. After the breakfast, four of us brainstormed our options. That evening over pizza, Elvie and I discussed our next step. A few days later, half a dozen of us visited government offices to notify them of our strategy.

Mountain tribal people, unwilling to change their traditional style, still practice a slash and burn approach to agriculture. They are willing to let us use 22 acres of ancestral land to start a farm to grow vegetables, pigs and chickens. Our BLC parents will each donate one week annually to working on the farm, and will give 10% of the crops to the tribal people. The other food will be brought back to BLC to help feed our 500 poor students.

We will also be receiving troubled kids from the city (released to us by the government social welfare department "DSWD" as a diversionary facility) to live on the farm and help grow the crops.

The location is a few hours away, in the cool climate of Mount Apo. BLC will also start a native school, via our child sponsorship program, to give a quality Christian education to both the tribal and delinquent kids. The makeshift houses will be built by our BLC parents. Each will use his or her specific gifts to build with native products of coconut leaves and bamboo. Pls. pray.



OUR PANANTONGAN CHURCH PLANT'S CHOIR SINGS CAROLS DURING THEIR 2007 CELEBRATION. THEIR THEME: "ONE BETHLHEM NIGHT..." JESUS IS OUR SUPER HERO! DRESSED AS MILD-MANNERED CLARK KENT, I SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED INTO SUPERMAN WHILE GIVING OUR BLC FAC/STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY



GLOBAL "WARMING": KIDS SHOWING LOVE WORLDWIDE "Merry Christmas! Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

We shook hands with 400 children, one-by-one as they were called by name up to BLC's stage. Each received a gift and a number. The gift was a shirt and pair of shorts, which we'd purchased with funds from their sponsors. Whenever we received money for a student's Christmas gift, we'd put the funds into a "pool" from which we divided evenly for each child, so all would receive gifts of equal worth.

The number each child received, from preschool ages through 6th grade, corresponded with the number pinned on 400 stuffed animals, piled on the tables on stage.

"Remember when we got these?" I asked Elvie. During the nine months we'd been in the USA last year, God touched the hearts of people in over 100 churches that we spoke at, as we drove from coast-to-coast. From New York to Washington, loving children went home and dug in their toy boxes to provide these toys. School kids in New Jersey gathered over 100 "beanie babies" to help the cause. As our tiny car had filled with stuffed animals, PJ and Abby were cushioned from every speed bump that we hit. We'd stopped at McDonald's dumpsters to get used french fry boxes, then to Walmart to get packing tape.

Packing the boxes in parking lots of post offices, we'd then mailed the toys to the Philippines. A few months later, across the ocean, we got notice from the post office that some of our packages had arrived. Driving them to the school in the BLC multicab, over the next 6 months we unpacked the 300+ boxes of toys, clothes, books and school supplies. We put the toys in boxes in the closet until Christmas. Now, looking out on the 400 BLC kids, cuddling their own toys, I peered over at Elvie. "Wow. It really was worth all that work, wasn't it?" Uh-huh. And we'll do it again ...and again until Jesus returns.

<u>YOU KNOW YOU ARE A FILIPINO IF...</u> ...you spell "in front" as one word; "infront". For example, "The car is infront the bank."



YOU CAN HELP!

I mailed you a BLC sponsorship card last month. Please give it to a friend to sponsor a BLC child.

SPECIAL NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE: Starting April, 2008, on the tenth anniversary of BLC, international student sponsorships will experience their very first increase, from \$20 per month to \$25 per month. This is due mainly to cost increases and devaluation of the dollar to the peso. We plan to not raise the rates again for at least another decade. Some sponsors have already started giving the new amount. Thank you, and thanks for understanding!