

TALLY FOR CHRISTMAS 2008 & 2009 STUFFED ANIMAL GIVEAWAYS: 1200NEEDED/360 REC'D



TO SEND **STUFFED** ANIMALS PLEASE MAIL TO: HARRY BARNER **18 EILEEN** DRIVE **RENS-**SELAER. NY 12144 **HE WILL** MAIL THEM IN **BULK TO** US.

SOMETIMES TOYS ARE AS BIG AS KIDS!





THE BLC DRAMA TEAM PRE-SENTS THE STORY OF JESUS IN "HAND LANG-UAGE" SENDING



-2008-Pepper* *PEPPER=Paul and Elvie's Prayer & Praise newslettER

Paul M. Barner Ministries Philippine Church Planters Vol 20 No 6 PEPPER'S 20TH YEAR! 1988-2008



POOR TRIBAL FAMILIES OFTEN COME DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO LOOK FOR WORK IN DAVAO CITY.

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

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



WHO WILL RUN THE CHURCHES WHILE WE ARE AWAY ON SPEAKING TOUR DURING JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST? MY **VERY ABLE** ASSISTANT, PASTOR CALLEM!

THE UNBROKEN CIRCLE "It's lingen [circle] time!"

Every Wednesday night, at the end of prayer meeting, we gather in a circle for "lingen time". Eight years ago, when I was trying to learn the Filipino language, I picked up the word for "circle" (lingen). Our church attendance at that time was about 150, and Wednesday evenings had a few dozen in attendance. "Let's get in a circle and hold hands as we close in prayer," I coaxed them. Yet they still just sat there in the church's plastic chairs, there in the BLC gym. Hmmm. They did not understand my English. How could I explain how to get into a circle? Oh yeah...LINGEN! After I jumbled a few Filipino words together, everyone understood that they were to hold hands in a small circle, there in the center of the BLC gym. The church continued to grow exponentially, and now our combined attendance is fast approaching one thousand worshipers each Sunday. On Wednesday at prayer meeting we have about 200 there in the gym. At "lingen time" I end the meeting by looking face-to-face at these delightful fellow believers. After a hard day at work, or washing clothes by hand, or studying, each of these awesome people take time out for God. Imagine, when we get to heaven, with billions of believers from all time, Gabriel calling out with his trumpet, "Come on, everybody, it's lingen time!"

Do you have a 2008 project?

27 Fl lightbulb sets: H2O pump/compressor\$489 MISSIONS Jeepney-bus: Welding Mod \$9,412 Welding Machine \$445 **Tables for I.Arts:** \$650 **Tchrs' Mailboxes:** \$360 Metal gym pillars: \$1,000 20 Wall fans: \$45/per



SOME OF THE POOR CHILDREN AT BLC ARE FROM LARGE FAMILIES WITH NO FATHER. **OFTEN THEIR** HOUSES ARE JUST SHACKS WITHOUT DOORS

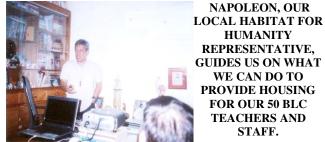
GIVING "PROGRESSIVELY" "I'm poor, but God can use my ideas!"

Jun loves coming to church. He has two sons at BLC, and also a "special" mentally-challenged child, and a baby. Self-employed, he runs a small table on the sidewalk in downtown Davao. On it he fixes broken cell phones. Jun faithfully gives his 10% tithe to church, yet because the amount is so little, he is personally embarrassed because he feels he owes God so much more. Thus he came up with clever ways to make his tithe grow. One day he came to church with a foot-long piece of bamboo, three inches in diameter. A bank, it had a slit cut at the end, and was filled with pesos. When offering time came, he put it on the stage to challenge others to give. Another week, he bought a crate of oranges, wholesale, with his tithe. After Jun gave the oranges to the church, members of the congregation bought them, cheaper than they could at the store. Praise God for Jun! Last year, when the bank sold us their extra furniture, they gave Jun a commission. He gave his "cut" to BLC, so that the furniture would be cheaper. Praise God for Jun!

2008 FURLOUGH

Starting this year, we'll be taking shorter furloughs (only 3 months), and having them every Summer, so PJ and Abby won't miss THESE ARE SOME NEEDS THAT WE HAVE NOW AT BLC: school. Our agenda for the next five years is as follows (for the USA): 2008: NY; 2009: VT, PA, \$4 /per NJ, NY, East Canada; 2010: East Coast, Southern States; 2011: Midwest, Rocky Mtns; 2012: West Coast.

> YOU KNOW YOU ARE A FILIPINO IF your government grows biofuel, but imports rice from other countries.



STAFF. **RECYCLED TRUTHS...EVER FRESH, EVER NEW** "Pastor Paul, today is my brother's birthday. Could you

come to our house tonight to celebrate?"

Our engineers for BLC's 3rd-floor construction are twin brothers. After I agreed to attend Jerry's birthday party, it suddenly appeared to me: "Gary, it's YOUR birthday, too!"He smiled as he left my office. At the party Elvie whispered to me, "The mother wants you to share a message!" I quickly put together in my mind an object lesson based on the construction of a strong building. Sharing at the party, I related about the Christian life. The twins nodded as I compared the deep hole that needed to be dug for the school's foundation to be firmly in place to hold the building (commitment), the iron bars (Bible), windows (witness), cement (prayer) and roof (salvation). "That was a very good message!" Elvie told me on the way home. "Bible-based and challenging!" Two days later I shared the same message for the 50 students gathered for chapel time at Faith Academy Davao (PJ and Abby's school). The kids were very interested. On Friday while attending the DCL (businessmen's) prayer meeting, one of the leaders tapped my arm, "Could you share the Bible message this morning?" he asked. Always willing to share the Bible, once again my Tuesday message was resurrected. Later, throughout the business meeting, different leaders referred to aspects of the message, especially to the transparency we should have as believers, even as windows on a house are transparent. The Bible's truths are appropriate for all Christians, everywhere, both old and young!

SPECIAL NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE: 2008 is the tenth anniversary of BLC, and this year the BLC international student sponsorships experienced 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. Sponsors are reminded of the new amount. Thank you, and thanks for understanding!