# Island Outreach Ministries

*Bohol – Philippines*

***News & Prayer - May 2011***

***Dear Friends***

The past 6 weeks has been a somewhat busy but very enjoyable ministry period.
I will share just a few highlights.

April began with fellowships to prep our island children's ministry workers for the upcoming DVBS outreaches, and to complete all the current batch of BTCP trainees' requirements for graduation.

Then it was a joy to witness the High School graduation of 5 island girls who have been living with us for the past 4 years while attending school. We would like to develop this ministry as more island church families are asking us to take in their children so they can complete high school. Please pray with us as this would require more facilities, and sponsorships would be a great help as most families cannot provide even the basic necessities for their children's schooling.

Then it was off to Cebu to meet my mother at the airport. What a joy it was to have her back for 3 weeks! Praise the Lord she was able to ride the small boat to Galilee and the islands and she even enjoyed getting around town with me on the back of my motorcycle. She writes:

***"I praise the Lord for my trip to the Philippines and thank you to those who prayed for me. I was so encouraged to see God's blessing on the ministry. At the DVBS training I saw children of island pastors as well as grandchildren of the first converts on two of the islands. What a blessing to see the ministry passing from one generation to the next.***
***It is 25 years since Bill & I first went to Talibon and I praise the Lord for all He has done on the islands and in the lives of so many people. It was such a joy to meet up with many friends. Some were little children when we first went and now they have married, and they brought their children to meet me, and all now involved in their churches.***
***Praise the Lord for all of you who have supported the ministry, some of you for many years, and I thank God for you and trust you will continue.***
***God bless you."***

During her visit we held a combined church fellowship inviting all the island churches to attend. Dr Joseph Tan and his wife Esther from Singapore, and Dr Ferdie Pabrua from Manila were our special speakers. More than 250 adults gathered and enjoyed the teaching on "The Smart Mouth". It was a wonderful time of instruction and fellowship, and an opportunity to glorify God together for His faithfulness and grace to these islands, and to honor the contribution of my parents to this ministry over 25 years.

Then it was time for the VBS outreach ministry to get into full swing. Church workers and volunteers came for 3 days of intensive training and preparation.

During the last week of April, workers were sent out to 15 churches to run 5-day programs.
During the 1st week of May they concentrated their programs in places where churches were establishing new outreaches.

Also during that week we held a ceremony for our 3rd batch of graduating BTCP Trainees.
This batch have been a real blessing to me personally and it was quite moving to watch the graduates receive their certificates of completion after years of faithful and keen study while ministering in their island churches.

So thank you all very much once again for your part in all of this. We love you and appreciate you all dearly. We recognize that it is through your generous support and your effectual prayer that God's grace is so sufficient for all our needs.

God bless you
Steve, Julie, and the IOM Family

***"You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to His people. Praise be to God."***

*(Psalm 69:35)*