

National Ministries Report
Island Outreach Ministries
Bohol - Philippines
March 2007

Dear Friends

First let me share some ministry highlights from the December-February period.

* We were so excited to receive our first group of Australian visitors during my time here. The Great Hope Baptist Church missions team spent the first week of December visiting and encouraging the island churches, participating in Anniversary and Sunday services at Putik and Jaguliao Islands, and painting our newest boat at Mamoawan Island. They attended a Pastors' Fellowship and saw the famous Chocolate Hills and Tarsier monkeys of Bohol.

* In December we had our annual Preschool Camp. About 70 children plus parents and teachers came from 5 island preschools.

* The wedding of Cara & Junjun went off beautifully on December 20.

* I spent Christmas Day farming seaweed with Pastor Romeo and his family not far from where the Jaguliao Sea Church once stood.

* The rain set in during January bringing most things to a standstill, and the cooler weather was great.

* The IOM Board members went away to a hilltop retreat for four days of fellowship and planning.

* The Lord provided for Pastor Sam and Grace (our Admin Assistant) to have the surgery we had been praying about for some time.



Pastors' Fellowship & GHBC Missions Team

Up-coming Projects and Events.

* March is the end of the school-year so we will be engaged in ten Recognition Day Ceremonies between March 17 and March 29.

* March 31-April 1 a team of Christian doctors, surgeons, and dentists will be coming from Cebu to hold a medical missions outreach on Cataban Island.

* During April we will be conducting worker training for summer children's ministry.

* May is a huge month of Vacation Bible Schools.

* Galilee is an island property that Dad had a big vision for. Unfortunately, over the years, it has fallen into disrepair through a lack of care and use. The facilities need to be renovated or rebuilt and a sea wall needs to be constructed to protect the shore from being further eroded away. We also have the opportunity right now to purchase some adjoining rice fields which would make ideal recreational and camping areas. I believe God would have us develop this property to fulfill the vision my father had for it and use it for His glory. We want to make it a centre for training, fellowship, and evangelism.

* Another property IOM owns is up in the hills of Rizal outside Talibon. It is an ideal spot for a prayer retreat where Pastors could get away for rest and time alone with the Lord. We need to build a small cottage, water storage, and fencing. These are just a few things we want to do in the coming months as finances permit.



Preschool Camp

Other Prayer Points.

- * The Board Members are accepting greater responsibility for overseeing the churches and mentoring the younger pastors this year.
- * Sponsorship funds for our college students.

Praise.

- * As follow-up to the story about Juliet's house. Glen Lukey was able to go to Jagulio and rebuild the house with the help of the church members. Juliet's mum now attends services regularly.
- * A big thanks to all who sent gifts for Cara & Junjun, and who have been sending used postage stamps for Robert.
- * For the Christian doctors we have met in Cebu who have given their services to help our people.
- * For our new websites:
<http://www.pastornet.net.au/cbc/iom>
and <http://flickr.com/photos/iombohol>
Thanks John and Ken.
- * For a generous donation toward the purchase of the property adjoining Galilee.
- * For those saved and added to the churches over the Christmas/New Year period. Baptisms were held at Galilee and Cataban.



Steve & IOM Board Members

A Personal Note.

The past three months have been a time of tremendous personal struggle for me. At times I really felt like pulling right out of ministry and could only pray – “Lord, don’t let go of me.” And He didn’t. I share this because the emails I received from friends during this time were such a help. Your prayers have meant so much.

God bless you.

Steve and the IOM Team.

PS. I’ll be returning to Oz in April. I plan to be there for a brief stay before returning to Bohol, so if you would like me to visit, please let me know as soon as possible.

“Rain, rain go away”