

THE CHANCO CHIMES



Developing Church leaders for the CB Movement in the *Philippines* and beyond

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December 2013

Dear Friends,

The year 2013 made us reflect on the simplicity of God's faithful providence. In many ways we were surprised.

Humbled, we realize how the Lord uses students who at first do not appear to be promising candidates for ministry. Take Cheng, not his real name, who is a low key kind of a person who came to the seminary a few years ago, looking apprehensive and somewhat reserved. He appeared to be pulling back as he faced our admission counselors. Cheng was seeking God's direction for his life. Clearly he knew he had a mission to do. On the same note, it was obvious he was not sure he was ready to deliver. He cautiously enrolled. Shortly thereafter Cheng became gravely ill with the dreaded dengue fever. I thought he would just quit. But Cheng moved on. He recovered strong from that illness and stepped up as a key leader of our international student community that keeps getting stronger every year. It was in 2013 that he flourished.

It is amazing to see students like Cheng who started slow but then blossomed in a way one could never imagine. He and Pastor Henry, the student featured in a previous prayer letter, would rather be 'wall flowers'- unseen, unnoticed, and just in the background. But it is truly the humble that God exalts. One cannot see much promise to start with, but God sees so much more.

In July, it was difficult to make provisions for the classes I had just started teaching in order to return to the US on an early home assignment to help with our mom Marjorie. God made a way through internet technology and others who covered our non-teaching responsibilities. It is difficult to know how to best approach mom's illness and needs. We find ourselves on the receiving end of encouragement and support from family and friends as well as from various Christian communities...from all of you. Please keep praying for wisdom in this area.

We were startled to see how fast the grandkids had grown! They boosted our energy levels and reminded us to never lose sight of life's many wonders.



*Time was taken to
be with the grandkids when
we were in Tennessee and
North Carolina between
visiting supporters and speaking.
It was good to see and spend
time with Annalyn and Caleb
also.*



Commissioned by First Baptist Church, Forest Grove, Oregon

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Thank you for your partnership!

It is enriching to see our grown kids flourishing in their God given abilities, sustaining themselves, mentoring others, and at times footing the dinner bill.



Annalyn teaching her 3rd Grade Music class



Ben with his mom after the birthday dinner he treated us to.

There has been astounding support instance, in front of church members enveloped by love and prayers to help ahead. These praying teams were – in Shelton, in Forest Grove, in Dayton, Tennessee, and in many asked, “How can we go unless we are anywhere without you. Certainly moments we spent with our “senders” give for this ministry. Thank you for



from the Christian community. For at Bremerton, Washington, we were us press on to the task up replicated this year wherever we went Eugene, in Cary, North Carolina, in other places. As the apostle Paul sent?” We would not be going these past months we treasured the – churches and friends who pray and reminding us the Lord is faithful.

Tears and sadness came when we saw the images coming from the Philippines as the Filipinos staggered to recover from various calamities; record breaking precipitation, earthquakes registering 7.2, and a category 5 typhoon that struck the central islands this year. We were not there but we saw and heard the reports from our fellow workers and the narratives broke our hearts. It was hard to watch from such a distance and not be there to help. In the midst where so many lives have been destroyed, the accompanying suffering with the seeming almost impossible route to recovery – the Lord simply quiets our hearts as we look anew at The Cross and the contrast of His mysterious providence. Please pray for the Filipino people.



We are humbled and, together with you, we are grateful for a year filled with the “unexpected.” We move on with Hope despite all the wounds and scars, believing that the best is yet to come. As the New Year 2014 unfolds, may we all actually witness the fact that “the Lord is merciful, gracious; slow in anger and abounding in loving kindness –One who relents from doing harm.” (Jonah 4:2)



A Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with His Ever Present Love.



Rene and Carla



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