

SWAT REPORT # 148
SPECIAL REPORT
WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PHILIPPINES
SIXTEEN YEARS AGO

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

In 1994 the SWAT TEAM was serving in Northern Ireland. We had preached all throughout the British Isles and parts of mainland Europe. Robin and I were happily married but without children and we prayed that the good Lord would allow us to adopt a child from somewhere in the world. We put no restrictions on the Lord except to specify that this child might be an addition to our ministry rather than a hindrance. We had been teaching and demonstrating public ministry for many years at that time and stood available for public ministry conferences anywhere in the world. We traveled several different places for this purpose so it was not altogether a surprise to receive an invitation to hold several public ministry conferences in the Philippine Islands.

In these conferences we taught some really great guys how to be unashamed of the gospel in the public forum. The blessing from this has been that many of them remain close friends and fellow labourers in the Lord to this day. Many have continued in what we have taught them and are faithful to preach the gospel in the market place.



We lead them in publishing the gospel in public in many forms. We traveled to the remote jungle



dwelling and preached to many and baptized a few.



We held many street meetings with our student preachers setting an example. We traveled the islands the full length of 700 miles many times riding on unusual vehicles.



We also taught some to play the accordion and supplied several of

them with an accordion.



Psa 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

We truly delighted ourselves with the good Lord and He truly did give us the desires of our hearts. We loved the Filipino people and they loved us. We loved them so very much that we brought one of them home as a souvenir.

You see, the Manalo family were a happy, Christian family with seven children. The youngest, being held by the mother, was named L Mar Jill G manalo. The family tradition included most of the family names on both sides either in full or in initial. The family was faced with a heart-rending decision. The mother found out she had terminal cancer when she conceived the last child and was not expected to live much longer. The father was perfectly willing to care for all the children with or without his Proverbs 31 wife, however he is a rice farmer and could not possibly provide for the family and care for an infant (10 Months old). So, they prayed that the good Lord would send a Christian couple to adopt their baby so that the rest of the family could survive and have a measure of quality to their life. This was quite a testimony for a family living in a Catholic country. The normal circumstance would have been for the mother's sisters to care for the child but they were all Catholic and the mother told them they were praying for the Lord to send a Christian couple so the child could be raised in a Christian home. Now, remember earlier in this report that I mentioned that we were praying for the good Lord to allow us to adopt a child somewhere in the world? Yep, as unbelievable as it may seem, the Lord worked it out that we could bring a souvenir home



with us, adopt her, change her name to Mary Bethany and this would answer both families prayers...He is so good.



This is the Manalo family just a year ago standing in front of the home that we helped them build. Missing in this photos is Mary Bethany, her mom who died just 10 months after we took Mary, and two of her brothers, one of whom died in an industrial accident just a year ago. There is also a female cousin that is added to this photo.

What happened to all those guys we trained? Well, many of them continue in public ministry and we have supported several of them for all these years. Some of them have their own churches now and very much look forward to our return this November, Lord willing. We will be in meetings once again from the north to the south of these islands carrying on the work we started many years ago.



What about Mary's family? When we left with Mary we promised the father that we would bring Mary back to visit. In these growing up years for Mary the Lord has never given us peace, nor has He made it possible for us to fulfill that promise. But now, all three of us

have all the peace, joy, zeal and health to make this trip and the good Lord is now beginning to supply what is needed for such a lengthy, taxing and expensive trip.

We are flying to the Philippines in the third week of November and we earnestly solicit your prayers for this. We have attached all the information in case any would like to help us with this.

Preaching the gospel around the world
Gerald Sutek and the SWAT TEAM for Christ

We now have a phone # that you may call for the price of a call to Florida but please remember that we are 7 hours ahead of East Coast time. Just dial 1-850-208-3773 and we will answer if we are at home.