Fall 2017



# The Focus

Bringing the Good News of Jesus to the unreached in SE ASIA

#### John Ricards / President's Corner

It sounds corny to say this: but, "a new day has dawned on MCN"!

At MCNI's annual meeting of the board of directors last week, we officially "set in" Justin Allen as the new Director of our mission organization. I've mentioned Justin several times here over the past year of his training and integration, but now his position is official! Justin is a great family man, with not only the specific calling to world missions, but with an awesome skill set as well. He is already fully vested in the work. I look forward to walking alongside him in the years ahead.

Justin is bringing new vision and energy to the position, and will face new challenges along the way. Mindanao is still under Presidential martial law, and there are still skirmishes here and there affecting the progress of our work among the tribal minorities. Our training center/Bible School is undergoing a major "retrofit", with new leaders being trained and much needed infrastructure improvements. Our cadre of Filipino missionaries (serving in Cambodia, Indonesia and other sensitive areas) are underfunded and overworked. (Annual donations are down overall by about 12%).

But despite these roadblocks, the work is maturing along the trajectory established by MCNs founder, Roger Tompkins.

Justin does not receive a salary! All MCN missionaries are "faith" workers, meaning that our income is derived solely from the donations received from dear friends like you. Please consider adding Justin to both your prayer list and to your charitable contributions list.

And special thanks for those of you who have, through the years, seen MCN as "good soil" into which you have sown your precious seeds of finance, effort, and time. We really appreciate you!

### Preparing for the 2018 Missionary Conference

By Justin Allen, Director, MCN International



On March 5-8, 2018 we will be having our biennial Missionary Conference. The conference is a gathering of everyone within MCN in the city of Cebu. This means that all of our Filipino missionaries, our Ten-40 Go missionaries (Filipino Missionaries working in the 10/40 Window), our US Missionaries, and our MCN staff will be gathering together. This is a time to build relationships, report on the work that each of us is doing, and to build up and encourage one another. We will be praying together, worshiping together, and being fed from the Word of God by some highly gifted preachers and teachers.

This year the conference is an especially important gathering because the Ten-40 Go missionaries and I will be meeting for the first time. I

look forward to meeting these amazingly faithful and dedicated brothers and sisters in the Lord. I hope to communicate to them the passion and vision for MCN that the Lord has imparted to me. Please pray that the conference will solidify MCN in the present and build momentum for the future.

There are significant expenses that come with putting on the conference. MCN pays a part of the travel for the Filipino and Ten-40 Go missionaries. We also have expenses related to lodging, food, and local transportation during the conference. Please pray and consider giving a gift to help support the care and encouragement that this conference provides to the missionaries and staff of MCN. If you'd like to give a gift to help us put on the conference, please include the note "Missionary Conference" with your donation. If you'd like to attend the conference, please contact us at mcni.usa@gmail.com.

## God's Faithfullness By Byron and Joy Gary



TCIP

**TRIBAL CHILDREN'S LITERACY PROGRAM** 

God's faithfulness is limitless and his kindness is so amazing. We see this very clearly in the life of Jemuel Bago (Pictured at lower right). When he was six years old he was accepted into our TCLP Dormitory Program at Mt. Zion and we enrolled him as a pre-school student at Mahayahay Elementary School in Surigao, Mindanao.

The Dormitory Program was designed for Mamanwa children who live in remote mountain towns where there are no schools within a 7 mile radius. Jemuel was one of those kids. God provided a faithful couple who supported him all throughout his time with TCLP. Shortly after he moved into the dorm his mother died, and then five years later his father died too. Jemuel continued to live in the dorm and faithfully pursued his studies. He recently graduated from high school.

In June, Jemuel enrolled in a Bible School in Tacloban, on Leyte Island across from Mindanao. His heart's desire is to train as a pastor. He's currently in a three-year program. His plan is to return to plant a church among his people once he finishes. He's praying and believing for God's provision to be able to finance his three years in Bible School.

Please pray for Jemuel. Pray that he would be able to stand the test of time. Ask God to give him the wisdom, strength, and endurance to finish his three-year training program. Please pray for God's provision for his tuition, food, and other personal needs during these next three years.

Jemuel is an encouragement to us. We've been with MCN working with TCLP since 1999 and sometimes we feel that our work with the Mamanwa is like paddling a boat upstream against a swift current. Other times it feels like we're pushing a huge boulder (in terms of reaching out to the Mamanwa tribe) and it seems like it takes a lifetime to move the stone just a little bit .

God is showing us that victory is from Him alone and He can change the hardest of hearts, in His own perfect time. Jemuel is a perfect example of this. To God Be The Glory!







### Giving...

You can be part of the work of MCN by praying for us or by contributing financially. You can donate by sending a check to:

MCN International PO Box 55938 Portland, OR 97238-5938

Or by going online to mcni.org

You can communicate with us by calling John at 541-288-3017 or Justin at 503-869-0375, or by emailing mcni.usa@gmail.com