



May 4, 2009

Dear praying friend...

Greetings to you from rainy, wet Philippines. It should be our hot summer months but we have had rain most every day for the last month. It is nice to see green plants and trees but our summer crops are suffering because of the wet. But God is amazingly wonderful and even in the rain His goodness and faithfulness abounds!

Communication:

A joyous conclusion happened today in the ongoing saga of my phone and internet problems. This morning a DSL line was installed in my office and I am good to go again. No more dial-up (which was getting worse and worse by the day) and no more calls to the phone company. In no time at all I was able to clean out the inbox of my hotmail account, answer letters from supporters and write letters to people back in the States and Canada. Hurray! You will be hearing more from me now that I have a connection!!!!

Status of Mustard Seed:

Just a week ago we finished Term 1. Students completed their exams and all passed and are able to continue into term 2. Students did quite well, many receiving 90% and above in their marks. They were pleased as were the staff. Some changes did occur during evaluation week that I will share with you now.

- One student left the program because of on going problems with her mother. We are not really sure what is happening in her life at the moment, except, her father who works in Saudi Arabia, has suffered a stroke and is in a coma. We haven't heard what is happening with him but he and the family definitely need our prayers.
- A second student has also left the program because the family needs her to find a job to support the family. She gave us a different story about her leaving which wasn't true. Telling the truth is not of importance in this culture; part of saving face and that is just isn't important.
- Our student that left the program in week 4 went through a difficulty three weeks ago in her pregnancy. She began spotting blood and was put on complete bed rest. She is doing much better now but still cannot be doing too much.

Mustard Seed Reunion #2:

Last Saturday we held our second Reunion of Mustard Seed Students and staff. We had a wonderful time with students and staff from all of our 4 batches. Some shared what God has been doing in their lives. It was very encouraging. We played games, ate lunch, and watched a powerpoint slide show of photos from each of the batches. All are looking forward to Reunion 2010!

So we are into our second Term and the students have settled well into studies again. At our staff meeting today each of the staff shared how the students are doing in each of the areas. We are very encouraged to hear what God is doing in their lives.

Thank you also for your prayers for the staff and students of MS. And for your partnership with us. God bless you!

Sincerely,
Barbara Burchert
Program Director