

WOMEN WITH A MISSION

June 2006

This spring our long-time ministry partner Lyn Browne led a WWAM team to the Philippines. What a blessing it is to share her team's report here with you.



Lyn Baptizing a New Convert

Team Philippines—April 2006

By Lyn Browne

I have partnered with Lana Heightley for many years, both through Women With a Mission and my own ministry, Joy's Calling. Her leadership gifting started long before her ministry was formed, and it has helped me take several teams overseas under the umbrella of WWAM.

As a participant in this ministry from its beginnings, I have developed a heart for the Philippines. In my eleven years of trips, I have learned that it is a great place to start new team members, both because of the fine reputation of WWAM and because of the beautiful heart of the Filipino people. So, when the opportunity was presented, I readily chose to lead the team this year.

Choosing a team for a foreign missions conference is always a challenge. Many considerations and factors are important. Certainly God's guidance is the most important, but other factors also must be considered. Surprisingly enough, preaching and teaching

ability is not at the top of the list. Personality gifting and the ability to be part of a team are probably highest. Experienced members are a must, but there is always a fresh zeal and flavor when the newest team members are experiencing life-changing adventures in the Lord and lengthening their cords in ministry and experience.

Team Philippines April 2006 came together through prayer, fasting, and recommendation. Four members, Jan Baxter, Sue Chamberlain, Pam Wickenhauser, and I, had worked together in the past. We looked forward to working together again. Our two new team members, Frances Johnson and Jeannette Crichton, were new to missions but not to ministry.

Our theme for the conference was "His Promises—My Promises." We had the privilege of ministering to the tribal people of Marie Aurora in the Province of Aurora. Some of the tribe walked three days down the mountain to get there and certainly set themselves up for miracles by their determination to join the rest of the Body of Christ in Bayanihan, Aurora. The occasion was their annual tribal conference, but they never expected the joy of the Lord that was waiting for them.

After many e-mails, travel changes, and panic over passports arriving on time, we flew off into the night and into tomorrow (I always find it amusing that coming home, we fly back to the future). It was a 15-hour flight to Hong Kong, and meeting our two new team members at LAX was part of the excitement. We women could find nothing to say to each other...NOT! Talk, talk, and more talk all night long, only to walk off the plane in Hong Kong and onto the next plane headed for the Philippines. Two and a half hours later, we arrived. Rest for the weary, talked-out travelers... NOT! We still found much to talk about.

Manila. Awe. We smell the air, gather our luggage, exchange money, and then look for Abe, who had come to take us on another long ride to Bulacan. The aroma outside the airport is one that four of us have inhaled many times before. Surprisingly, that smell of pollution reminds us of happy ministry times.



Local Tribal Housing

After a night in the Team Mission Compound, we set out in vans for the mountains. Over the river and through the woods (four mountains to be exact, on rock roads for 8 1/2 hours) we ride, having a great time of fellowship with our Life Evangelistic Crusade team partners. After the long, gritty ride, Jeannette and Lyn arrive in beautiful, tropical Buranguy of Bayanihan. Our other team members find themselves pushing their van across a riverbed that is deeper than it looks. It is really the men who push the van to the other side, but walking on water becomes the buzzword of the moment.



Jeannette with Children

Frances, who is a pastor in her church, used her strong preaching gift to stir up the audience to examine where they were in Christ in “matters of the heart.” Jeannette, our youngest team member, used her gift of teaching with the children and youth. She challenged the young people to stay faithful to their calling by “knowing the Word” and the children to know they are strong in the Lord like David was.

Jan, Sue, Pam, and I brought forth our own unique gifting of preaching and teaching. Pam and I team-taught a class on shame and saw two women, who were parted by sin years ago, restored by the power of God and forgiveness. I taught on the fruit of leadership using Jesus as our example. The teaching came with much

audience participation, humor, and the experience of washing each other’s feet regardless of position in the church. I also taught the women on the topic, “Intimacy of the Bride.” Sue, with the very evident anointing of a teacher, shared on the plan of God, the move of God, and the glory of God in our lives. Jan, a mighty women of God, saw her teaching on the authority of the believer and growing spiritually in Christ manifest in the healing of a man bound by anger toward God. This time was also her restoration back to the mission field, coming after a long illness that had kept her homebound.

At this conference, six nations were represented: the Philippines, USA, Bahamas, Sweden, Germany, and India, since one of the missionaries from Sweden was born in India. What a team and what a flavor God chose to blend. Pressed down, shaken together, running over with His joy. We laughed so much we needed a healing for sore muscles.



Converted Head Hunter

In the preaching times, over thirty people came to first-time decisions for Christ, which “added to the church daily” as we shared the love of Christ. For church members, passion and zeal for serving in the church was ignited, and much freedom from emotional bondage came with the preaching of the Word.

My joy was overflowing, as usual, and several of us spoke to a German man named Klaus about God’s joy. Every time I saw him throughout the conference, I prayed for him to receive the joy of the Lord. On the last night, the Spirit of God fell on this man, and all his sorrow, sadness, and burden were washed away by God’s power. He was so happy and free that the delegates at the conference just stopped and watched as God’s grace wrapped around him

and set him free. After we prayed for his financial situation and return of a lost passport, he chose to let God move on his behalf, releasing the circumstances to God. Two weeks later, God moved upon the German and Philippine governments to reduce his debt from an enormous amount to only \$1,210 and to restore all his papers so he could once again obtain a German passport. We are all praying for God's provision for the rest of the finances.



Sue with Tribal Pastor and the Machete He Formerly Used to Hunt Heads

The last day of the conference, we had a “play day” as we usually do, so the nationals could minister to their local people. It was a time for our whole team to be refreshed before concluding the conference. A picnic to the river was planned, and we drove five minutes by car with food in tow. Parking by the river in a coconut grove was breathtaking, to say the least. We swam in our clothes, jumped from rocks, and motorcycles with a sidecar and caribou carts filled with bamboo. Jan, Jeannette, and I had the privilege of performing water baptisms for eleven new believers in the river. When we returned home, Lyn sent baptismal certificates to the local pastor for those new believers.

Our finale the last night was spectacular. Pam spoke with a great preaching anointing and rallied us all to continue on the good work God had begun. We danced the tribal dances that the people taught us and sang in the Spirit with the bamboo instruments that they used to worship God. Paul from the praise and worship team and Ashley, a missionary from the Bahamas, did a rap and entertained us all. We praised God that the tribal people were no longer headhunters using their machetes to kill people but used them now as the “sword of the Lord.” We summarized our workshops and challenged the people to hold

fast to the prophetic words that had been given to them individually.

Our goodbyes were very difficult, as our hearts had been knit together by our common love of Christ. I requested prayer from the tribe for God to give me the strength to walk three days to where they live the next time we were together. As a final act of ministry, we chose to have each person walk under a sheet to pass the anointing on to the people and the leadership. Our challenge was for them to duplicate and carry on what they had learned to those who could not be there. Our head pastor, Jesse Abalos, had the mantle placed upon his head to give him strength to carry on the mighty work of God that had only begun at this conference.

We traveled back along the same dusty rock road with thankfulness in our hearts that God had shown up “big-time” and we had imparted what He had given to us. We rejoiced over the new believers as well as the older believers who had been edified, encouraged, and built up.

Upon returning to Team Mission Compound in Bulacan, we had a celebration dinner and a fun time doing a rap for Bishop Romeo and Nora and the praise and worship team. We promised them that we wouldn't give up our day jobs.

We slept only about five hours before we packed up and came back to where we each live. I do not say where our hearts live, because wherever God sends us, we leave a piece of our heart.



Jan, Jeanette, House Hostess, Lyn

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From Lana Heightley's Desk

Dear Ones,

Our WWAM teams were certainly busy for the Kingdom over the past several weeks.

As you have read, Lyn Browne took a powerful team of women to the northern part of Luzon, conducting a conference for the tribal people of Aurora. Forever faithful, our Lord did amazing things for the team as well as the people. I can just see the Father smiling and saying, "Well done, good and faithful servants!"

Close to the same timeframe, I led a team to Italy and Uganda. Of course, God proved to be strong on our behalf as well. One immeasurable blessing for me was to preach in an Anglican church (although people were Charismatic) on Resurrection Sunday. Truly I was very humbled, realizing that both Paul and Peter once stood in that very city and proclaimed, "He is risen!" It was an overwhelming emotional event for me. God does give us the desires of our heart.

Your partnership has helped to make both of these trips happen. Your compassion and commitment to see the lost won for Christ and to see leaders trained for the harvest of the nations has not gone unnoticed by our great God!

I can hardly wait for the next newsletter to share stories with you about the awesome things He did. Truly the harvest is white, and it is our great pleasure to follow it!



God bless!

Lana