

Rick & Becky Martin

Your Missionaries in
Iloilo City, Philippines since 1977

Dear Friends,

The Extension Ministry was the first outreach ministry of Iloilo Baptist Church. It started in 1978. It is one of the most important ministries as it is a way to reach many children by teaching the Bible in neighborhoods out in the open air.

Here are some pictures of the Extension Ministry where our Bible college students go into the poor areas of our city on Saturday morning. The classes include a Bible story, singing, prayer time and invitation.

In the first picture to the right, you can see the scenic ocean but behind the picture is one of the largest slums in our city.

The next 5 pictures are from one class.



Prayer time is taken seriously by these poor children.

Mailing Address:
PO Box 88
5000 Iloilo City
Philippines

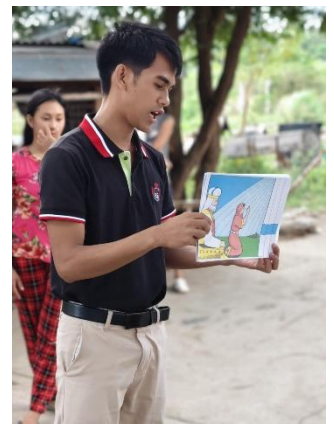
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BIMI
PO Box 9
Harrison, TN 37341



The Extension Ministry was started the first year we came to the Philippines.

Before covid there were as many as 600 classes a week. For 2 years we were not able to have the classes. Getting started again was harder than we expected, but we are getting close to the number of classes we had before. The Lord has greatly blessed this ministry of having Bible classes for children in the different neighborhoods in our city. There are now more than 500 classes, reaching about 6,000 children a week. One important part of the Extension Ministry is the use of flash cards.

We have enough stories with flash cards to last for 2 years - 102 Bible Stories. God has greatly used these to help increase the classes compared to a year ago. We are so thankful to those who helped us with this. It has made a difference.



Here are more pictures of different classes in our city. Many of the parents will not let their kids go to our church because they are Roman Catholic, but they will allow them to go to these classes in their neighborhood.



We almost always share the plan of salvation each week and have an invitation. You can see the variety of places where children meet for these classes.



One of the favorite parts of the classes is the singing time. Most workers use a guitar to help with the song service.



This little girl brought her pet chicken!



Pictured to the left is Lester- he's a good worker with children. He's the son of one of our staff members.



Please continue to pray for this ministry.

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OTHER NEWS

1. One of our young graduates who started a church in a dangerous part of Negros was recently murdered. The suspects are the members of the New People's Army, the communist rebels. Please pray for his church and family.

2. One of the graduates of the nighttime Bible Institute for married men of Pastor Shem Barena was holding a prayer meeting when he suddenly had a heart attack and died. His name is Roberto Velamor. He had been pastoring for many years in southern Negros Island. Please pray for his family and the church.

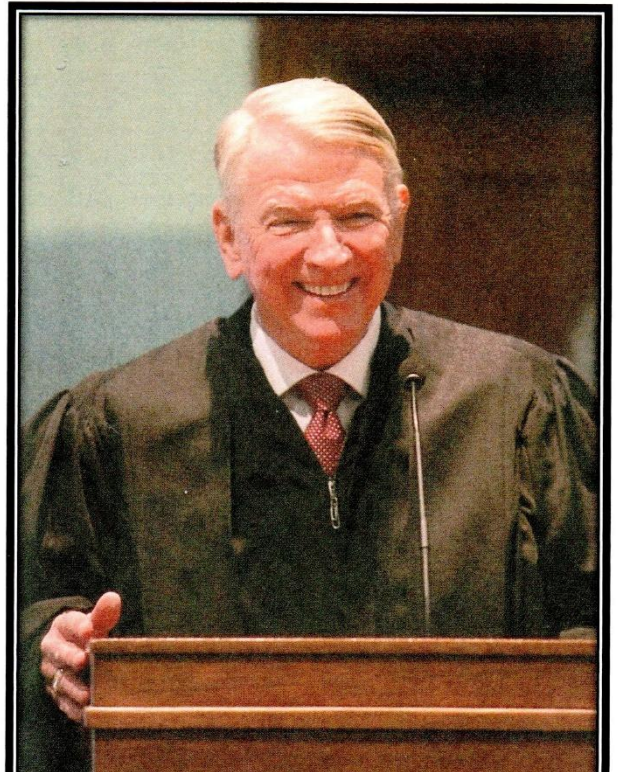
3. A dear friend and relative of mine was taken home to be with the Lord recently. Bill Graves was the husband of my sister Connie. Bill was a man of principle and had an impact on my life. We had countless conversations on the phone through the years. When Bill was young, he decided to study law when he learned that the US Supreme court banned prayer in public schools in the 1960's.

He loved his country and the Constitution. He spent much of his life making sure that future generations would be able to experience the freedoms Americans have, freedoms that many people around the world are denied. He was elected as a state Representative and served 12 terms or 24 years and was known as the most conservative representative in the state of Oklahoma. He helped pass bills protecting the rights of Christians.

When term limits kept him from running as a

representative, he ran for District Judge in Oklahoma City and served 3 terms or 12 years. Bill would never compromise his convictions because he based them on the Bible.

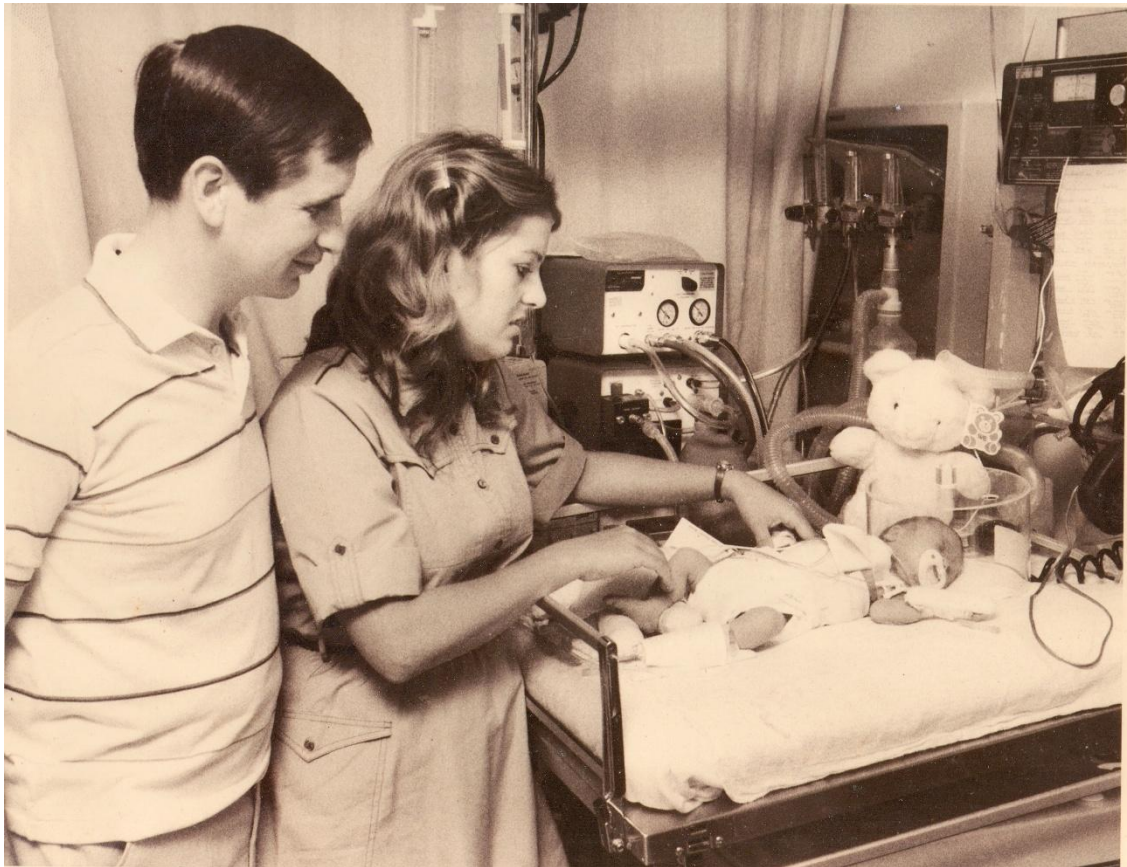
In 1986 our daughter Rachel was born. When she was 4 days old the doctor told us that she had a life-threatening heart problem and that we should prepare for the worst. We were able, with the Lord's help, to get her to Manila but the doctors there could not help. Finally, with the help of Bill & Connie, we were able to get Rachel to Clark Air Force base where the Regional Hospital for the Far East was located. The doctors told us that they could not do anything either, but if she was able to get to the US there were hospitals that might be able to save her life. However, they said it was very hard to get permission to get on a med-evac flight.



Becky and I had almost given up when we called Bill and Connie again. They told us they would somehow find a way to get her on a med-evac flight. They called US Congressman Mickey Edwards and he was able to get permission from the Department of Defense, the Surgeon General of the Air Force, and the State Dept. When Rachel was 17 days old, she was put on a huge med-evac plane. She was the only patient on the plane. When the plane arrived in Oklahoma City she was taken to Children's Hospital and had 2 lifesaving procedures done. The next day the front page of the "Daily Oklahoman" had the story of the "miracle baby" from the Philippines whose life had been miraculously saved. Bill and Connie went through life helping others, asking for nothing in return. Most of the people they helped were people they didn't even know. Becky and I are so grateful for what he did for us.

Bill was not at all afraid to die as he knew he had trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior. He knew where he was going when he died. I will miss him but I'm thankful he is in a better place than we are.

Below is a picture in the "Daily Oklahoman" of Becky and me with Rachel after the surgery May 1, 1986.



God bless,

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