

# Merry Christmas

to all of our faithful ministry partners! 2008 has been a year of great blessings in family and ministry. Your support in words, prayers and finances has enabled us and others to experience and share Emmanuel, God with us. Thank you for participating in God's work with us.

## Partner Portrait

**I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel. Philippians 1:4-5**

Dwayne's work with the Christian Reformed Churches of the Philippines has expanded. As faculty/mentor with Reformed Ministry Academy, Dwayne teaches classes in our town of Los Baños and on other islands. Teaching on Negros and Panay entails wearying travel by air, land and sea. Eager, responsive students and the hope of leading churches to greater maturity make those trips worthwhile.



Vergilio Bernardino

Interim President, Reformed Ministry Academy; Pastor, Calauan Christian Reformed Church; classical counselor to CRC Butuan, Mindanao.

At their request, Dwayne accompanied national pastors Benhur Garcia and Vergilio Bernardino to the southern island of Mindanao to counsel two congregations troubled by conflict.

Both groups of a dividing church in Butuan invited Dwayne back for thanksgiving services.



Part of the thanksgiving worship at Christian Reformed Church of Butuan included transformation of a traditional Mindanaoan war dance to a demonstration of unity in Christ. The spears were laid on the floor, never to be lifted again in battle! Bible verse on the backdrop and the dancers' shirts is Psalm 133:1 –

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity!”

Officially, Christian Reformed World Missions ended its role in **church development among the Waray**. The agreement with Tacloban CRC and Classis Negros North was completed September 30, 2008. We are grateful for your committed prayer and financial support since 1990. We continue to love the believers who have been gathered in Tacloban, Guiuan and elsewhere in the region and solicit your prayers that the churches develop strong ministries in their communities.

**Asian Theological Seminary** is an internationally accredited institution in Manila committed to training leaders for biblical transformation in Asia and the world. Dwayne serves as member of the Board of Trustees and the strategic planning committee, and chairman of the personnel and presidential search committees.

Please pray for:

Tacloban Christian Reformed Church:

- that God will provide wisdom and clear direction in the current leadership challenge
- that human intimidation would be overwhelmed by spiritual strength
- that financial issues will not dominate and control in decisions to be made

Reformed Ministry Academy:

- that churches will send more of their leaders to RMA
- that those serving as teacher/mentors will model spiritual excellence in all their relationships
- that churches and students will become more effective and fruitful in ministry

The Christian Reformed Churches in Mindanao:

- that Living Hope Christian Fellowship in Cagayan de Oro will be able to complete requirements for official recognition (“organization”) within the denomination
- that Living Hope congregation will be embraced by other churches of the classis and denomination
- that CRC Butuan and CRC Pagatpatan will reconcile and work together for Christ’s Kingdom

Asian Theological Seminary:

- with thanks for constructive response to internal communication issues
- that residual hurts will be completely healed
- for a new president who will guide the seminary effectively for several years

As the year 2008 draws to its close in the shadow of the global financial crisis, we want to thank you for the support of your dollars as well as your prayers and letters. Please remember that continuing to extend the call of the Gospel to the vast populations of Asia and the rest of the world will require continuing sacrificial giving on the part of all of us. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Your partners in service,

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