

Dear Friends and Fellow laborers,

It has been a full week. I just got back from Malaysia where I assisted in the training of 19 who will open BLESS reading centers in Sabah, Eastern Malaysia (that is the northern part of Borneo) and also in the southern Philippines. I was tired after preaching and teaching for 10 hours in two days. The capitol, Kota Kinabalu, is a beautiful town of about 700,000 where we have no work.

We (myself and two lady staff instructors) were invited and fully funded by a businessman who has a desire to bring the Gospel to this area of the world. We were treated royally. A Land Rover was made available for our transportation. All food was provided and we were housed in the mission house - fully furnished and air-conditioned.

This man is a humble servant of the Lord who wants to get the Gospel into the plantations before the Muslims bring in their radical doctrines. East Malaysia seems to be more open than West Malaysia and some other states in the Federation. He is investing in this program so that boys and girls get the Bible as the first book they read. He also wants to impact the educational aspect of the nation so that preachers will be able to minister more effectively.

On the last night after each had been given their Certificate of Completion, I prayed and saw the tears flow down the trainee's faces as they committed themselves to reach into areas where I as an American could not go. They are determined to see hundreds of people saved as they tell them of Jesus and share salvation in Him alone. Please pray for them. (I only wish I was younger and could go to this open door. Maybe God will call someone to go to East Malaysia?)

Then this morning, the icing on the cake. I spoke at a mission of our church and saw the altar filled as people dedicated themselves to reach into their vast area of southern Metro Manila. The national pastor is doing a great job and has already started another mission out of their church in a more provincial and remote area.

It is great being a missionary. You can't pay me enough for this!

Del Hooge  
In the Philippines since 1967



PS: We start another BLESS training tomorrow with 20 trainees. I am excited! Kids learn to read the Bible in 14 weeks and we have seen ALL who have enrolled saved!!! Then their families are reached with the gospel through the sponsoring church.