

# SOWERS INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

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# What's going on with the Lewis'?

Here's an update. We are blessed by having our two sons return home to study. We did experience the empty nest for a year or so, but we are really glad to have the kids around again!

Bo, our oldest, is studying at the California Institute of Culinary Arts in Pasadena. He wants to be a chef. It is one of the best schools in the USA and he will graduate with a Cordon Blue certificate. He especially likes it because he gets to eat his homework (instead of the dog)!

Jason was living and working in Las Vegas, at the Excalibur Hotel, but grew weary of the "scene" there so he is now looking into schools here in L.A. He still is not sure exactly what he will study, but he is on the right track.

Rebecca, the youngest, is majoring in Nutrition at Seattle Pacific University in Washington. She will graduate next year, a little behind her friends because she took a year to go to Bible School in England. It was a great year for her. She is doing really well in school.

Pooka continues to teach Spanish at Peninsula High School in Palos Verdes, about 15 minutes from our home. This year she has all upper level honors and advanced placement classes. It is more work but the students are really dedicated which makes it more fun.

So there you have it! What a blessing it is to have such a great family! God has been so faithful to us over the years. We are grateful!



Jason, Bo, Rebecca, Gwynn and Pooka

# *EATING ON THE ROAD*

People are always asking Gwynn what he eats when abroad. This article is dedicated to those who never wanted to ask but wanted to know.





Yes, of course I ate locust. Turns out they use peanut oil and they are actually pretty good! To be honest, I couldn't get the fat worm to go down, so I had to make due with the bug.



Eating can also be lots of fun. Here are some of our folks eating raw sugar cane on a train in China. It's actually pretty good except for the way it makes your teeth turn black!



*Whenever we go out to eat with people, the subject of what I eat on my journeys always comes up. My wife panics at the mention of it because she already heard the stories and doesn't think they are appropriate dinner conversation...and she is right of course.*

*Yes eating out with us can be a challenge! Hearing the stories about eating the various parts of the goat head in Kazakhstan to the baby rats in China to the pig hearts in Thailand to the unborn chickens in the Philippines, I've got some stories!*

*They say that 60 million people died of starvation in China during the Cultural Revolution so you can understand that the cuisine in such times is broadened somewhat. The Chinese say that they eat everything that flies except the airplane, everything in the water except the boat and everything that walks except man! I have found this to be true. Not only do they eat everything but airplanes, boats and people but they eat all of the parts of everything but airplanes, boats and people! And not only do they eat all of the parts, but they usually make them really spicy!!!*

*These are some photos I gathered over the years to illustrate some eating adventures in different countries.*

*Here's a tip for you: if you ever go out to dinner with us, ask about the weather!*

Southeast Asia is especially fun for the brave souls who are not diet challenged. Here is some food favored by the Issan People of Thailand, readily available on the streets of Bangkok. It is usually deep fried in dirty oil, salted, then add a little hot sauce and you are ready to savor this local flavor! Warning: do not spill the hot sauce on your hands or clothing as it will cause major damage!



Here Rebecca shows how big my mouth is when I come near pumpkin pie! This is the picture I show my friends in China when we talk about the horrible things people eat in America. They look at it and say, "Oh gross... don't talk about that while we are eating!"



Sometimes it is not what you eat but where. One of our college teams lived in an orphanage with the children for two weeks. Meal time was a challenge for them. It's amazing that even the vegetarians were dreaming of Big Macs!



Let us not forget the USA! After Andy returned from China he found that he couldn't get enough good ol' American food. Here he is snacking on enough to keep a rural village in Cambodia alive for a month!



China is of course famous for Peking duck. Sometimes the food is pretty good, we just don't like seeing it in the market!



In the Philippines they love rice, and usually eat with their fingers. Here is a family in a Muslim village where we work sitting down for dinner. As is common in many parts of Asia they sit on the floor. Rice is so popular with Filipinos that they serve it at McDonalds; number 4 on the meal deal is a Quarter Pounder, Large Coke & Rice.



This is sign in a Chinese restaurant in Bangkok. If you can't read it I'll help: Steamed Shrimg (probably means shrimp) with Garlic in Soy Sauce; Fried Crab Flipper in Curry Powder; Drunken Cold Chicken (not sure what that means!); and last but not least Fried Snakehead Mullet in Fish Sauce! Having a hard time deciding? Me too! I think I'll go with the Fried Rice...

# SOUTH THAILAND

## A NEW TEAM FOR THAILAND

We are very excited to announce our new South Thailand team. It is made up of four adults and two children. The team leader is well known to our ministry and to the short term teams that have gone to work in the Philippines. He is Pastor Roslen Sipat and his wife Phylla and their two children. Both have a long distinguished ministry backgrounds in the Lord's work in the Philippines. Pastor Sipat is a front lines warrior and dedicated pastor, having served in three different churches and holds a Bachelor of Biblical Studies from the Baptist Theological College in Cebu, and a Diploma in Theology, with honors, from the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College in Talisay, Negros Occidental.



**Pastor Sipat and family.**

Phylla is the quintessential pastor's wife, her training includes Bachelor of Christian music, Major in Conducting, from the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary in Baguio City; a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from West Negros College in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental and has completed the Basic Bible Course at the Febias College of Bible in Karuhatan, Valenzuela, Bucalan in Metro Manila. Her experiences includes teaching Sunday school, leading choir, playing piano, teaching music, leading the women's group, working in the many outreaches and being a full time mom! Their children are daughter Lin Lin, 12 years old and son Ar who is 7.

The other two members of the team are Anamer Guanga and Nannette Curpo. They are now studying at the Community Resource Center in Digos undergoing training in how to minister among Muslims and learning the Thai language.

Both of these young women have experience in campus ministry and will be teaching in Muslim schools.

We are very excited about this new team! We are especially grateful to the Lord for raising them up and calling them into full time missionary service. It is encouraging to see how the Philippines has transitioned into a sending country.

Please pray for this new team. We are now doing the visa work and training them for their new assignment. If the Lord moves you to become a part of their support team, that would also be a great blessing for us and them!



**Romeo Niere, SE Asia Director for Sowers, Philip Pabalate, CRC Director with Anamer.**

# SOUTH THAILAND

## A NEW TEAM FOR THAILAND



Nannette teaching the young teens in  
Punta Biao.

### The Sowers International 2002 Short-Term Mission Teams

There are several short-term missions opportunities available in 2002. We have been taking each of these teams for several years, and have well-established sites for each of them. Not only do we offer the teams listed below, but we will work with churches or Christian groups to send a team to any of these countries. Each team member will raise his/her support and we will train you how to do this.

**South Thailand** June 6-22 2002

Teach basic conversational English at an Islamic High School. This is a rewarding opportunity to work with Muslim youth! Now, more than ever, they need to know the love of Jesus Christ! Two teams may go out this summer to South Thailand, depending on interest, contact us for second team dates.

**China** July 9-30, 2002

This mission trip begins in Taipei, Taiwan with an English camp for high school kids. Then you will travel to Mainland China, Sichuan Province, where you'll teach English for about 2 weeks. Debrief will be in Taiwan. Join us for this amazing opportunity to work with people who have limited access to the gospel!

**China** April 11-24 and Oct. 3-16, 2002

Rock babies for Jesus! This team travels into China, where you will minister to the abandoned babies of a Chinese orphanage. You'll be rocking, feeding, bathing, singing to and praying for the little ones who everyone except God and his people have forgotten. You'll meet with local house church members, and have the opportunity to speak in classrooms of a local university.

**Philippines** July 23- Aug 6 2002

This ministry is with the Muslim community on literacy and a free clinic. Also, there is an ongoing program with the government for the youth. This team will be the first to stay at the brand new Sowers International facility there. Two teams may go to the Philippines this summer, depending on interest, contact us for second team dates.

**Brazil** August 15-29, 2002

This mission provides an awesome experience ministering to children. Destination Belo Horizonte, Brazil, led by Brett & Katie Sears, will provide some ministry experiences that can not be found else where. Working with a local Sowers missionary, opportunities include: ministering in Pediatric units in hospitals, community outreach and ministering in government school programs.



# Punta Biao

We are truly thankful to the Lord for what He is doing among the 46 Muslim young teens in Punta Biao, a village where we are involved on the island of Mindenao in the Southern Philippines. Our ministry there, named Community Resource Center (CRC), is conducting intensive discipleship classes with them through what we call the Young Teens Club. We are grateful to the people in the United States, especially the summer short term mission team, who donated bibles to be given to these new believers. They now are memorizing the books of the bible and enjoy participating in bible quizzes and drills. We are looking forward to these young people becoming leaders in the Believer's Fellowship that will be established there in the future.

CRC is now in the process of organizing Father's and Mother's Clubs in this same community. More than 60 mothers and 30 fathers have already signed up. These clubs are organized for the purpose of enhancing the personal, family and community lives of these Muslim people. The programs will be geared toward the development of the physical, moral, intellectual, economic, social and most important of all, spiritual aspects of their lives. The main activity of the clubs will be to study the Scriptures to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and teach them how to live in accordance with what the bible teaches. Please help us pray that the Lord will also supply the needed bibles for this group as He did with the teens. We are also praying that out of these adults & teens we can train and develop leaders that will be an important part in taking the gospel to other Muslim villages in the area.



**Teens discipleship class  
in Punta Biao.**



**Children praying for the meal in our food  
program in the Muslim village**

# Yala 2002

## Thai Students Come to USA

One of the best teams that we send out is the one that teaches English in Muslim schools in South Thailand. What a joy it has been to get to know the people in that area.

We are especially excited about the visit of a group of students from one of the schools. The group will be made up of the director and his wife, two teachers, a cameraman to document the whole trip and nine students. They will come here to California for two weeks in May and will be hosted by some who have been there to teach.

It is an all girl's school and the trip is being sponsored by the English department. Romeo Niere, Southeast Asia Director for Sowers will be coordinating the trip from this end. They will visit schools here, and will also see some of the sights of Los Angeles. If you are in our area and would like to help out please contact Romeo at: [romeon@sower.org](mailto:romeon@sower.org). How about taking them to Disneyland? We could also use a special offering if the Lord so leads you!

Pray with us that this will be a meaningful time for both us and them, that it will add understanding between our two cultures, and that the witness they will experience will penetrate their hearts and lives.



# Prayer Request Page

Prayer requests are submitted by visitors and donors to Sowers International

I have a prayer request for my sister who has Crohn's Disease. She was diagnosed with this three years ago. She has tried every medication for this including Remicade infusions, which none of these have worked for her, to put her in remission. She suffers severe abdominal pains day and night. I also need prayers for my mother. She had a massive heart attack two years ago and has not yet gotten back to herself. My sisters' sickness is also getting her down very much. Your prayers are greatly appreciated. God Bless You!

@peoplepc.com

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Please continue to pray my husband will **return** to Jesus Christ so the strongholds on him can be defeated once and for all. He has buried a lot of hurt and anger from a past failed marriage, and it has hardened his heart. Ask the Lord to soften his heart, and to fill him anew with His Spirit. Pray too for God to work the miracle needed to restore our otherwise hopelessly broken relationship. Ask Him to draw our hearts toward each other again in love, with compassion, kindness, gentleness, understanding, and with SELFLESS and forgiving spirits. Only God can reach him, and only God can heal our relationship. Ask for His mercy in this situation.

@meginc.com

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Please pray that we receive the wonderful gift of a child after nearly 14 years of marriage. In that time we have never received this greatest of gifts. Please pray that we have good health to conceive and strength in our hearts to keep good spirits and love until that wonderful day arrives. Thank you so very much.

@gateway.net

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Please pray for my son. He is in process of divorce and he needs to commit his life to the Lord. His wife needs to be saved.  
Thank you for praying.

@webtv.net

Hello. I am requesting your help if possible. Prayers are needed for my son's godmother. She is in critical condition in the ICU at Baptist Medical Center in Florida. She has lupus and is currently on a respirator. Please if you can pray for her to get better. She has a husband and children who need her.

@aol.com

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Please pray that my wife and I will be blessed with a child. Pray that the Lord will help us to conceive and get pregnant. Pray for a miracle until the end of March 2002.

@msn.com

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I have received divorce papers in the mail. Please stand in agreement with me that the Lord will wake up my husband! Pray that the Lord will come into his life in a big way. Pray with me that the divorce that he has filed will NOT go through and he will come to his senses and come back home to me and his family. For the Lord our God said "that a husband shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife". I am believing and receiving Your Word Lord and I will continue to stand on Your Word and believing in your promises. For the God of Israel said "I hate divorce". Hallelujah and I thank You Lord for being in my life and being with me and for me during this trial as it is written "I will never leave you nor forsake you". I ask you my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to pray with me for the restoration and reconciliation of my marriage. Jesus, you are my Lord and Master. I know that You can change a man's heart in an instant .... Lord I am praying and asking for a Saul into Paul miracle. I believe that there is NOTHING too hard for my GOD! With man this is impossible, with God nothing is impossible! Lord, I will praise you all my days! Please pray for my husband, that he will turn to the Lord and accept the free gift from God of Salvation. Please pray with me for deliverance of my husband, myself and this marriage. That the Lord will place a hedge of protection around us and anything not of God will not enter our hearts.

@yahoo.com

**If you would like to post requests, please send your request to:**  
[prayerrequest@sower.org](mailto:prayerrequest@sower.org)