

# GABBIE S SAIPAN SIFTINGS



Dear Friends,

Greetings once again! We trust this letter finds you all well, and looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour. We have just celebrated "Thanksgiving" with our American friends - actually two separate feasts! Our home group celebrated an early Thanksgiving, and we had a lot of fun sharing the meal, and our reasons for being thankful. It was a special time for us all. A friend of ours from the States came for a visit, staying with some acquaintances of ours, and we celebrated Thanksgiving with them, too, and again, it was great to spend time with this friend, and also meet some new people. You know, when we stop and think about it, we have SO much to be thankful for - family, friends, you who are prayerfully and financially supporting us, the ministry God has placed us in, and on & on it goes!

We had a FANTASTIC time with Aaron & Jessica! They arrived a little tired from their travels, but got straight into "tourist mode", and Aaron showed Jess a lot of Saipan. We took them swimming, hiking, eating - went out to celebrate Jess' birthday, and at this restaurant, the staff sing "Happy Birthday" to the celebrant, and give a free dessert as well! Jess got a real surprise! We also took them shopping, to school, to church, to home group, to Tinian where we rented scooters and drove all over the island, sightseeing, and having fun! Aaron noticed quite a few changes to the island, too. We really got to know Jessica, and she would have got to know us a lot better, too!

Because of the cost of power - it has gone down a bit, but is still very high - we have had to cut our broadcast hours, by three hours daily, which impacts our listeners. Island power is somewhat more reliable now, with the addition of 15 temporary rental generators from Singapore. This arrangement is only good for a year, so there is a limited time for the local power company to "fix the problem."

Owen has been doing tractor repairs, overhauling transmitter water pumps, supervising the repair of one of the antenna anchors, designing & implementing a parts system for our antenna switching system - previously these parts have all been in a box, and it was a mess! We are planning a repair of the South Antenna during the first week of

December so we can do some needed repairs, as there are a number of wires about to break, and we will also replace the large steel rod that holds the counterweights together. The last time the antenna was down was over two years ago.

Irene has got herself involved in the volunteers group at the local hospital. Wednesday mornings sees her helping out in the Gift Shop as well as pushing a trolley around the hospital wards with various items that are for sale. She also helps for an hour or so on Friday mornings. This is a great way of meeting people, and getting out into the community! She continues to help out at Community School as well, and is still producing the weekly church bulletin.

Listeners letters - this time from Vietnam!

*First of all, I praise God for He has blessed you with His grace and truth, to give you the wisdom to know the needs of God's people. Your programmings are so rich in content, and the way you deliver the messages is full of grace and love from our Lord Jesus Christ. Dear Nguon Song Radio, I've grown much spiritually and stayed strong in the faith because of listening to God's Word through your various broadcasts in the past 20 years and even until today. God just gave me the privilege of purchasing a computer to listen and to download your broadcasts, and I could now make copies of your programs and then distribute them to other Christians so they can also listen to God's Word. Please show me how to download your messages into my computer. May God bless you and your family with His grace.*

*To all of God's servants, who are serving at FEBC Radio station! I would like to send warm greetings from our Lord Jesus Christ to all the staff at Nguon Song Radio. May the Almighty God bless you with His strength and love. My name is QVN, I regularly sit by my radio and listen to Nguon Song daily broadcast. In the many months and years that I did not contact you, I still keep all of the letters and material you sent me before. In 2004 & 2005, your staff wrote to me twice, I was glad and very encouraged by your letters. You also encouraged me to read God's Word from Matthew through Revelation. But the radio or music tapes you tried to send me had been lost, because I'd never received it. You also said in a letter that you may try to send me these things again when it's possible. For quite some time now, I've followed your suggestion and read through both the Old and New Testaments, and now I continue studying it over and over again. I am sending you this letter today, hoping to reconnect with you. Once again, may God bless you and your staff with His strength and grace so that you will be able continuing to proclaim the good news to our people in Vietnam.*

*(Nguon Song Radio is the Vietnamese name for FEBC Radio)*

We are looking forward to the visit of a volunteer team from Canada. They will be arriving in early January, and will undertake the painting of some of the buildings on the compound.

Caleb is happy to have completed another year of Poly Tech - 1 to go! He is doing summer school in January. He is participating in his 3<sup>rd</sup> Tauranga Half Iron-man this summer, too!

Once again we want to thank you all for your support this past year. We couldn't be here without you! Also we want to thank Jocelyn and Peter again for distributing our newsletter. May God richly bless you all! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Owen Irene*

Dec 2008