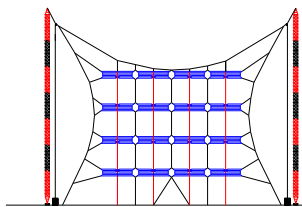


# GABBIE S SAIPAN SIFTINGS



Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, the last of the guy-wires will be done! It has taken a while to get to this point, but we are happy, and thankful to the Lord for the continued safety as we did this. The next labour intensive project ahead of us is the lowering of the "Chinese" antenna, and a general repair of it, plus the replacing of the large steel rods that hold the concrete counterweights in place. Backing up a bit, we have done a major repair job to the "Russian" antenna, and its 2 related towers. We had the services of "Towers for Jesus" - a mission organization from the States, who maintains/installs towers for radio stations. Two of their people came and helped us for 2 weeks with projects that needed extra helpers. Together, we worked on some of the guy wires that needed some expert "help", lowered the antenna so we could change out the rusted 18" pullies that support it, changed out the heavy steel rods that locate & hold the 10 ton concrete weights in position, effected an antenna repair, and a number of other tasks. We were off the air to Russia for 4 days because of the amount of work needed. It was a VERY busy time & physically demanding for us all! We enjoyed their fellowship, learned from them, and were even able to teach them a few "tricks of the trade" too, as this was their first time to work on a shortwave station.

At time of writing, we have a couple of volunteers here for a month. Robert is helping out in our Engineering Dept. His first task was to install an automatic transfer switch so our generator would automatically start and transfer power to the station when our normal power is interrupted. Sadly, this is happening too often, with 5 power cuts happening in one day, recently. Because of this, we have lost some broadcast time. We are also looking forward to the arrival of a family of 5 who will be here for 4 weeks, and they will be working for the Maintenance Dept. We are SO thankful for these "short term volunteers."

The latest "Ladies Nite Out" went down very well! The speaker was one of our newer Christian ladies, who spoke on "Finding Christ through trials in life". Once again, that was a project that Irene

was responsible for.

With the end of the school year, the population of Saipan dwindles as the teachers, and others leave island for their vacations. Five of our teachers have completed their contracts and have found new jobs elsewhere, but we are glad that 2 of our good friends are returning to continue teaching at Saipan Community School. It is always hard to farewell friends, but we are waiting to see who the Lord will bring to Saipan to fill the gaps!

On a lighter note, around our house, we have been gardening, trimming trees, and eating bananas from our small grove of banana palms. The bunch we just ate is by far the largest bunch we have ever grown! We have one solitary papaya growing on our papaya tree, and are looking forward to eating it! Our "Dry Season" has finished and the brown ground cover (grass) is now green again, and the flame trees are blossoming magnificently!

We had a very interesting week in April when we hosted a young 13 yr old Japanese boy for a home stay experience. He spoke VERY little English, and we don't speak Japanese! By the time he left, his English had improved quite considerably, and he returned to Japan with a desire to continue learning, much to his parents delight!

Our Home Group recently held a potluck/BBQ at the beach, where we had the opportunity to invite non Christian friends. We enjoyed one of the best sunsets we have ever seen, had a bonfire, and cooked marshmallows too!

Listeners' letters from Russia...

*"I am a pastor of a small church. Many people in our village listen to FEBC broadcasts and they ask me if I preach the same message delivered on your programs. It's a great conversation starter. I try to answer all their questions and serve their needs. People ask me to pray for them and their children. However, they find it very difficult to attend church. This is the result of severe anti-evangelical propaganda in Russia's secular media and local peer pressure: no one wants to be labeled. But a dozen or so of your listeners are already talking to me and asking for spiritual support, and that's a great thing. Thank you for your work."* Pastor Aleksandr from Kirovsk region

*"I live in Latvia and I'm disabled. Disabled people are invisible here. Years of neglect made my soul numb, indifferent to people's cruelty and everything else. I was used to being ignored. You can imagine how overwhelmed I felt when I heard on your program that God loves me. When I really understood that I'm important to God, I felt like a new person, like I was being born again. I am so grateful for your ministry, friends!"* Rostislav from Latvia

Again we want to thank each of you for supporting us in our endeavour to serve the Lord with a grateful heart, here on Saipan

*Owens Irene*

June 2008