



# Tooth Tales

A Newsletter of Jack & Jennifer Mitchell



June 2014

Currently we are in route home after three weeks and five days of overseas ministry in the Philippines and Saipan. We wanted to give a report of thanksgiving for all the Lord has done. There is so much though, I don't know how it will all fit in one prayer letter. Your prayers were so evident in so many situations and you have our heartfelt thanks.

**The package** – Thankfully some people cover us in prayer before we even leave on a trip and we needed it! An important dental ministry item was overdue in arrival and on the morning of our flight still hadn't come. We asked the Post Office to conduct a search of the packages on site (300+) hoping it might be there. With only an hour left before we needed to leave for the airport, they found it, on top of all the others! Praise the Lord!



Gospel being shared with waiting patient

**Connections** – Our team, which was only part of the PI team (some having arrived a week before us) was converging on Detroit from four different starting points. We all made it onto our flight to Japan with minutes to spare even though we had less than an hour to get to our gate once we landed there. Again, Praise the Lord!

**Logistics** – With staggered arrival times of two parts of our team, multiple pieces of luggage, some items previously stored in the Philippines and numerous in-country flights, it was a small miracle that only one trunk didn't end up where it was needed. Without it though, we had no dental instruments. We didn't think it was possible but the needed trunk made it from Samar to our first week's clinic site of Bantay, north of Manila, in twenty four hours. In the meantime we borrowed instruments from the Chief of Police who was also a dentist (?????) and treated forty patients the first day! God definitely has a sense of humor!

**The team** – God blessed us with a wonderfully flexible team who worked hard, adjusted well to the heat not to mention problems that arose and challenging living/working conditions. We were so pleased to have another dentist to help with the work load. This was such an answer to prayer for us!

**Supplies** – Because of the tremendous need for extractions, especially in our second week's location of Eastern Samar where the Typhoon destruction was so apparent, our anesthesia supply dwindled quickly. Thankfully we had just enough to make it through the last day of clinic. When we ran out of gloves and had to switch to ones that were too big, one of the dental team laughed and said, "It will be like doing dentistry with mittens on!" Loved that spirit!

**Safety** – Eastern Samar under normal conditions is a pretty dangerous place and the gospel has not been proclaimed there much as a result. Although the island is more open now with all the relief effort taking place, we had heard disturbing reports before we left. Thankfully we felt no danger and experienced no problems while we were there. Can you see how valuable prayer coverage is?

**Response to the Gospel** – We were amazed and humbled as we worked in both Bantay and Eastern Samar to hear of people responding to the gospel message as it was preached. The Filipino pastors who accompanied us worked hard to explain clearly and simply God's plan of salvation to all who were listening. One day as we worked in a Typhoon ravaged building it began to rain in earnest. Soon we were pulling teeth in ankle deep water and soaking wet clothes. That was the day that people responded the most positively though to the invitation to be saved. God is so faithful! We were so blessed to be able to serve Him! What a privilege to play a small part in what He is doing in the Philippines.

We (the Mitchells) then flew on to Guam for two days of rest and our team flew back to the States. We had time to wash our clothes, attend Harvest Baptist Bible College's graduation and a Chuukese wedding (never a dull moment!) before flying on to Saipan for our final week of ministry. If it is true that someone can be "killed with kindness" we are barely breathing. While treating our sweet patients there we received gifts of bananas, avocados, fresh mango juice, plates of sushi, pizza, Chinese "pancakes," cookies, watermelon, more bananas, bottles of tea, iced coffee, soda, juice and milk, a Chinese key chain, an island hair clip, and a box of Chinese tea bags. Our little clinic room was beginning to look like Super Walmart! They even had a birthday party for Jack who celebrated his 64th birthday while we were there! Seriously though, there was much work for us there. One young woman, who was terrified of dental treatment, waited in pain for two years for us to come and pull her tooth. It was quite a busy time but we were able to treat everyone who needed to be seen. We finished out our time in Saipan attending another beautiful wedding in the family of some dear friends.



Outdoor clinic in Guian, Philippines

So as we return, we praise the Lord for His great goodness, His strength and enablement in all He accomplished in these Western Pacific areas. Thanks so much for your prayers. We couldn't have done without them.

Looking ahead, we will take a quick trip to Arizona at the end of June, celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary, and then Jack will head to Micronesia with a team (July 3 - 20) once again ministering in the Chuuk islands there. As you can see, God is keeping us on the go!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Jack and Jennifer*

Jack and Jennifer Mitchell

For more information contact: Grace Dental and Medical Missions, 150 Cross St., Methuen, MA 01844  
978-454-6710; e-mails: drjmitchell@gdmmissions.org or office@gdmmissions.org  
You can now visit us on the web at: www.gdmmissions.org



Gospel being shared with waiting patient



Outdoor clinic in Guiuan, Philippines



Nervous dental patient in Guiuan, Philippines



Banzai Cliff in Saipan



Jack's Birthday Celebration in Saipan