



sending highly equipped,
gifted Filipinos, **shining as stars**
to the world's **unreached peoples**
introducing them to the **Prince of Peace**

Amazing Advance

Fresh news from
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The United Nations' Economic Report

"It was never meant to happen again, but the world economy is now mired in the most severe financial crisis since the Great Depression. Early responses failed to prevent the crisis from spreading and developed countries have entered into recession and are dragging the world economy down. Uncertainties surrounding this forecast are high... monetary stimulus programs proved ineffective in the short run—too little, too late. This could lead to worldwide recession in 2009.

www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp2009files/

BSOP International Director's World Report by **Dr. Dennis Nordine**

The year 2008 has been one of **Amazing Advance** for Bethlehem Star of Peace. Compare February 2008 with today:

	Feb '08	Today
Career missionaries on the field	10	15

In 2008, a year when the poor economy caused most organizations to lose personnel, BSOP had an increase of 50% in the number of long-term missionaries on the field! BSOP received over 4.5 million pesos (\$107,000) to support our missionaries—an increase of 21% over the previous year! Our amazing God provided for this advance! We're thankful for each support team member who prays and gives to help our Filipino missionaries shine among unreached people groups in Asia.

A year ago we had four missionary appointees raising support to go to Cambodia. Today only **Aide Rose** remains in Cebu praying that God will soon provide her needs. We also have four new missionary interns applying to serve among tribal peoples for 2009-10. Our amazing God continues to call more men and women to serve Him in missions.

Read on to see what Dennis discovered as he met with each one of the **21 BSOP missionaries and missionary interns** at the end of 2008.

Kalagan & Laminosa tribes

Lyn and **Merla** live with Animist and M* tribal people. Their pre-school classes, adult literacy, tutoring, youth groups, adult vocational & livelihood training, sports and social events all focus on leading these tribal people to become Christ followers. Over 50 youth and adults now attend "values class" every week. Missionary intern **Krista, Mary Grace, and Ann** assist the team working in two villages and at Haven of Hope orphanage. In October '08 Ann was diagnosed to have a giant aneurysm which encased a blood clot. By December God provided the funds for surgery to repair it and today she's back serving tribal kids at Haven of Hope—Amazing Advance!

Bangkok's Santisuk (Peace) English School and Peace Fellowship Church

had two break-ins that resulted in losses worth thousands of baht as well as data in stolen computers. But hard hearts were also broken this year as 12 Thais committed their lives to Christ. **Mariquit** coordinates all the small groups of the church while **Ethel** directs the English School where hundreds enroll monthly in Bible-based English conversation classes. **Rafael and Angel** teach in the school and disciple Thai believers in their cell group. **Joy** spent 3 months in the Philippines where she taught a missions class at Baptist Theological College but is now back at Santisuk teaching & mentoring Thais.

Resty networks with Servant Partners in starting house churches among Bangkok's urban poor. He saw 4 youth believe in Christ and 8 commit to his core group with the goal of reaching the millions of poor in Bangkok.

Baby **CJ** was born to **Jezeel and Carol**—the first BSOP baby! During 2009 they will lead a team to start a new Santisuk church near the Bangkok airport.

In **Southern Thailand** **Ian** will be joined by newly married **Melton and Meaw**. Together they dream of using Santisuk Music School as a base to plant strategic churches in the entire region. Today Ian meets weekly with more than 100 Thai youth and teaches English in a local college. Melton and Meaw will help reach families and couples to supplement the youth outreach. They'll also do medical outreach using Meaw's gifts as a pharmacist and medical researcher.



Team Cambodia Mid-year the team moved from Phnom Penh to establish a ministry base in the city of **Battambang**. **Darcy and Aileen** completed their initial year of full-time Khmer language study; both are good communicators already. They are now developing a Discovery Center for children, youth and families using drama, music and teaching English—20+ kids already come every Saturday. They also train church leaders how to do Christian Education ministry.

Bing (Mary Jane) ministers to young ladies and children as she is becoming fluent in Khmer. Her passion is do evangelism and to help women and children at risk. **Dondy** arrived in November and has begun formal language classes. His gifts in personal evangelism and youth ministry will be used this year as he becomes able to speak Khmer.

Pray that **Aide Rose** can soon join the team in Cambodia. She is still in the Philippines and meeting with churches and potential Support Team members each week. Pray for a financial miracle—become a part of it!

After much prayer, it was decided that **Melton** and **Meaw** would not return to Cambodia after their 3 months in the Philippines, but would join the team in the tsunami area of southern Thailand where there is unprecedented openness to the gospel. Political tension and a boarder dispute between Cambodia and Thailand have made it very difficult for Thais to make friends with Khmers. Meaw is Thai and would face much prejudice if she stayed in Cambodia, so we believe it is God's will for them to Advance the ministry in southern Pang-gna, Thailand—an area near Meaw's childhood home.

BSOP "Thaibodia" missionaries at their joint 2008 year-end Field Council in Bangkok



Amazing December

For all of 2008 Dennis and Melody Nordine's support had been running far behind their 2009 budget target. They adjusted that budget downward in July '08 to the same as 2007 but by Sept. were \$1700 per month behind the target. The majority of their support team is from Michigan—with mounting unemployment and a faltering economy. There was some improvement in Oct. and Nov. but the financial situation looked bleak as 2008 was coming to a close. However, our gracious God blessed certain supporters and they gave sacrificially. December 2008 showed the **highest monthly giving EVER** for the Nordines, removing their accumulated deficit! On Feb. 1 they were still at 100% and have been approved to return to the Philippines April 29. That's an **Amazing Advance!**



BSOP missionaries & 2008-09 interns reaching the Laminosa & Kalagan peoples

Dennis & Melody Nordine serve with



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