

# The Bicol Bulletin

March 2003

## Prayer Concerns

### Please pray for:

- Our family here and at home in the US.
- Our safety.
- Diligence in learning Tagalog.
- People, that we meet each day, to see Christ in our lives.
- God to provide a vehicle for our transportation needs.

### Thank God for:

- His direction in where to minister!
- His provision of a secure home!
- His protection each and every day!

## Special points of interest:

- The Bicol region of the Philippines is statistically the least reached area in the whole country.
- Famous for its fiery hot volcanoes, the Bicol region is also famous for its fiery hot food. Bicol Express is one of the local favorites. It is a spicy mixture of beef and pork.

## When God Shakes Your World – by Joanna Allen

After spending almost 8 months living out of suitcases, we are enjoying so much having our own house and routine! God has blessed us with the most incredible house in a wonderful town. It is more than I had ever imagined! We are located near one of the world's most beautiful and majestic volcanoes, Mt Mayon. Every time we look out our window we are reminded of our magnificent Creator!

After “surviving” in the house for a couple of weeks before our shipment arrived, we finally began the process of unpacking and “settling down.” As each box was unpacked, life seemed a little more “normal.”

With this “settling down” came the process of getting into a daily routine, something we hadn't experienced for almost a year! Carly and I do home schooling in the morning, we have lunch, the kids take a nap, language study in the afternoon, etc. As wife and mother, I like routines. I feel comfortable when everything goes according to schedule.



Mount Mayon, one of the world's most active volcanoes, is located only a few kilometers from

Of course, there are always those days when the schedule and routine are interrupted, but for the most part we are back into a “daily grind.”

And then came the earthquakes!

The first one came while we were at some friends' house for a birthday party. It took a few minutes for me to realize what was going on and by that time it was over. Our first thought was that it was Mt. Mayon. After running outside to look, we discovered that it wasn't.

The second one came later that same day and it was bigger and longer! I was actually in the mall at McDon-

## God Guides and Provides!

When we left the U.S. to come to the Philippines, we did not know where it was that God would have us locate to carry out His missionary purposes!

God has led us to a region that is wide-open for the gospel; to a town that is beautiful and inviting; and to a house that is everything we could have hoped for in a home! We have

settled in the city of Legazpi, the provincial capital of Albay and the capital of the Bicol region. We are on the southern peninsula of Luzon, the main island of the Philippines.

We are making new friends each day as we become part of the community. Every time we go out in public, someone we don't know says, “Hi

Carly! Hi Caleb!” to my children. For being a town of over 200,000 people, at times, it feels a lot like Mayberry!

Please pray for us as we continue to make friends! These friends are important, because it is through our friendships that we will be able to share the truth of the gospel and establish new churches!

## BMAA Missions in the Philippines

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## Our Vision

In seeking God's direction, we believe that He has given us a vision to . . .

- Plant churches among un-reached peoples of the Philippines.
- Equip those churches to plant new churches.
- Encourage them to work together to reach out with the gospel beyond their national boundaries.
- Network together with other BMA fields in Asia to carry the gospel throughout Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

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[www.filipinomissions.org](http://www.filipinomissions.org)

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## When God Shakes Your World (Cont'd)

ald's when it hit. I will never forget the look of panic on the faces of people as they realized what was happening and began to run for the doors. Some were



**Metro Pacific Mall  
Legazpi City, Albay**

screaming, some were crying, some just stayed right where they were. I froze. I had never felt a 3 story mall shake like that! It seemed to last forever. My heart skipped a few beats, I prayed, and when it was over I ordered my Big Mac!

The third one hit a few days later, around midnight. Wade and I were up late that night working on the computer. This time it was MY house that was shaking—my house that had seemed so strong and stable, where everything was in order and in a routine— and now it was shaking like crazy and there was nothing I could do! Once again, my heart skipped a few beats; I froze and just prayed for the earthquake to be over. This one wasn't as long and as strong, but it was still very frightening.

Needless to say, I had a difficult time sleeping. But sometime during that night, during one of those sleepless moments, I realized something. With all of my "routines" and

"daily grind", I had become more self-reliant. I felt like I had everything under control. And when those earthquakes hit, I felt more "out of control" than I ever had before. God had to "shake my world" to get my attention and to remind me that HE was the one in control. He also reminded me that I not only needed to trust Him with the earthquakes, but with my "daily grind" and everything in between.

This wasn't the first time God has had to get my attention, and it probably won't be the last. God is able to get our attention in many different ways—it just so happens that this time, He chose to use earthquakes!

I don't know if there is any feeling that is more "out-of-control" than the reality of living in another country for the first time. Everything that once felt familiar now feels very unfamiliar. Everyday is a learning experience. And everyday I am learning to trust God more, with the little things **and** the big things!

*An added note:*

*The epicenter of all 3 earthquakes was in Masbate, about 70 miles south of the city of Legazpi. They were 5.6, 6.2 and 4.8 respectively on the Richter scale. As far as I know, there was no damage here in Legazpi.*