



Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow.”

Isaiah 1:18

As we celebrated our first Christmas here in snowy Grand Rapids, our hearts lifted up in praise to God for sending us His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by whose redemption we are made whiter than snow! What a profound truth that has been to us again, when we as a family gazed upon fields and fields of fresh fallen snow!

Indeed, we are so grateful for a great number of things this year. Last October 13, 2007, our family was finally reunited after an unexpected turn of events. Pastor Niel arrived in Grand Rapids the 31st of July to come in time for the Fall semester of his Masters program. Joy and the children had to follow 3 and ½ months later, to accomplish the children's visa requirements. The Lord's grace was sufficient for us through that time and had made us realize that He has ordered all things for His best purposes.

We thank the Lord for this immense privilege of being here and for the blessing of post graduate studies and training for the ministry ahead of us. Pastor Niel's first semester at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary has just come to a close and again he is now well into his January term of week-long classes. Pray for us as he will finish the program by the Fall Semester of 2009 and as we begin our ministry to you all during our deputation time. Joy continues to home school the two children and review for her Nurse Licensure Examinations.

In countless ways, the Lord has revealed His faithfulness and the warmth of His love and care even in this cold winter season. We look forward to His molding upon our lives for the time that He has brought us here and His greater purposes still as we anticipate our return to minister in our beloved homeland, the Philippines. Again we thank you all for your prayers and encouragement. May God's love, manifested by His Son continue to draw us nearer to Him every day. God's blessings be upon you throughout the New Year!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Niel, Joy, Haniel & Naomi Mae Vilches

Please pray for:

- The seven new churches we visited - to consider supporting the ministry of Christ for the Philippines.
- Pert resuming his daily preaching of the Word starting February.
- Mel handling the finances and the library ministry.
- The completion of our church building in Guimbal.
- The provision for the building construction projects of our outreaches:
 - Kindergarten building of our church in Tigbauan and Leganes.
 - Church building in Boracay – for the time being they are planning to renovate / extend the house church to accommodate the growing attendance.
- The soul winning and follow up of our church in Dumarao this month.
- The safe arrival of our forty-footer container from Christian Resources International - books and literatures for our Library ministry and for our Pastors and Workers here in the Philippines.
- Pert's health – back pain problem. Has to undergo weekly physical therapy and rehab. Scheduled for coronary angiogram in March to check on the angioplasty done 7 years ago.
- Pastor Niel and Joy and the kids. Pastor Niel is presently enrolled at Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary. After finishing his Masters Degree, the family will be going back to the Philippines and will take charge of the ministry and with Pastor Pert helping along side.

Gratefully Yours,

Pert and Mel Alparaque

