

By the time you read this letter, Etta and I will have been in the States a few weeks already at the start of our seven-month home assignment. We are excited to be back with family and friends, and we plan to see as many of you as possible. We are also excited to be able tell you of some of the things we are seeing happen in the Philippine church. Here is a small taste.

### **More Than a Nanny**

Maria left the Philippines at about 20 years of age to work as a nanny in a nearby Asian country. She took employment with a nonreligious ethnic Chinese family, and her job was to care for the young son of a wealthy couple. As a Christ-follower who loved Jesus, Maria frequently sang Christian songs as she worked, just as an outflow of her heart. Over time, her young friend (the son) asked about this Jesus and she gladly read to him about the Bible. The boy himself eventually put his faith in Christ.

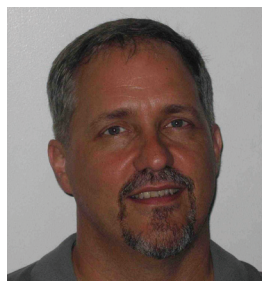
The boy spoke to his mother about Jesus and, aided by the words and example of Maria, the mother also decided to follow Christ. The influential husband later also chose to believe in Jesus. After not too many years he became the national leader of a Christian businessmen's group.

Now—remember where this all started? With a young Filipino nanny whose purpose to move from home was to make money in a foreign country and send a large portion back to the Philippines to support her family. In the Philippines these folks are called OFWs—that is, "Overseas Filipino Workers." Estimates have it that there are about 1 million Filipino Christians working abroad.

### **OFWs in More Ways Than One**

In the last few years I have heard of dozens of stories like that of Maria, where Filipinos working outside of their home nation have been effective witnesses in their places of work. Many church leaders in the Philippines believe it should be a priority to seek out Filipino Christians who are working abroad and give them basic training in sharing their faith and discipling new believers. These leaders hope to see these OFWs not just be "Overseas Filipino Workers," but also "Outstanding Filipino Witnesses." Efforts have been ramping up in the last few years to make this happen in ever increasing numbers.

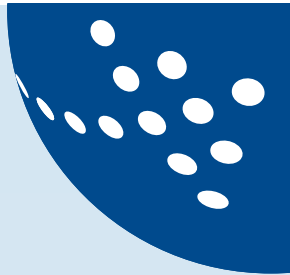
In the last few years I have assisted those trying to mobilize OFWs to become witnesses. The desire is to document and track OFWs who have been mobilized and trained for ministry. The task is daunting—around 3,500 Christians leave the country daily to work abroad; another 3,500 are returning on the same day. We are pursuing creative ways to locate this large group of potential witnesses for Christ with the hopes of stirring up a vision among them to use their overseas opportunities to witness—many of them will be going to places where no one with "missionary" stamped in their passport would be allowed to go.



I invite your prayers for this large potential witnessing force that is now working in nearly 200 countries worldwide.

May you and I also be outstanding witnesses!

*Russ*



# God is on the Move!

## As You Pray

Nearly four billion people don't even know to call out to the One who died for their sins. They are still waiting to hear the good news for the first time. Pray for additional workers for all of our fields.

### Pray

for health and safety for our personnel and their national counterparts. There are still many unsafe places in the world for followers of Christ.

### Pray

for our furloughing personnel seeking to connect with family and friends, for restoration and strengthened financial support.

### Pray

for our 12 appointees seeking the support needed to get to the field, for pre-field training and transitions.

In 2012 OC International is celebrating our 60th anniversary as a mission agency. By the grace of God, beginning in 1952 with just three American missionary couples, OC's ministry has grown and expanded into a worldwide ministry which last year served more than 1,000,000 national church leaders.

To celebrate these 60 wonderful years, throughout this year we will be highlighting various aspects of OC's worldwide ministry. As we begin this year of celebration, I want to share with you the amazing story of four Chinese believers, apart from whose sacrifice there never would have been an OC International. Their story is below ...



*Dick Hillis as a young missionary.*

The year was 1950. The city was Shanghai, China. The Chinese Communists had taken over the city. Four American missionaries, Dick and Ruth Hillis and Paul and Madra Holsinger, were under house arrest because of an anti-Communist tract Dick had written. Over recent months Dick had repeatedly been charged with being an American spy or an agent of the Nationalist army. A number of missionaries had already been executed by the Communists, and Dick knew that at any moment the dreaded knock on the door might come ... the march into the street ... then a bullet in the back of the head.

The knock did come. However, the Communist leader did not bring a word of judgment and death, but rather a word of release and freedom. Two Chinese couples had approached Communist officials and offered to give their lives in exchange for the two missionary couples. Their offer was accepted, and within five hours the missionaries were on a boat leaving Shanghai. Within a year Dick Hillis was in Formosa sharing the gospel with 400,000 Nationalist troops who had fled the mainland, and the next year OC was born!

As a mission we owe our very existence to the sacrifice of these two Chinese couples. I am looking forward to meeting them one day in heaven and recounting to them the incredible things the Lord has done in nations around the world as a result of their sacrifice.

Dick Hillis, OC Founder, was fond of saying, ***"It's amazing how much gets done when no one cares who gets the credit."***

President, OC International

## Did You Know?

Sixty years ago OC began with one team of three couples on the island of Formosa, with no intent to become an international mission. Today we are:

- 10 mobilization centers (sending countries)
- 34 nations where we have resident personnel
- 74 teams
- 675 ministry personnel (60% non-U.S.)