

SEND International
P.O. Box 513
Farmington, MI 48332-0513

Walt and Sue Johnston

Rev. Walter M. Johnston

I was born and raised in Pennsylvania, along with an older brother and a younger sister and taken to church regularly as a tyke. I had a basic moral American upbringing. My high school years led into the common teenage vices of drinking, drugs and women.

I came to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in about 1976 through the proclamation of the gospel by the 700 Club's ministry. At college in 1975 I began to hear about my need of salvation through this ministry. I had ignored the little Christian understanding I had. I knew that my self-gratifying lifestyle was not satisfying to myself nor to the Lord but I could barely see what was sin in my life. I do not consider myself to have had saving faith until I understood sin personally and also understood and believed that the Lord had the power to change my life. Head knowledge and desire is easy to agree to, but a change in my life brought the evidence of the Lord's work in me. In September 1976, I asked the Lord to sensitize me to sin as He saw it and to give me the ability to walk away from it (true repentance). And He did just that. This is the beginning of the confidence that I was not just repeating religious phrases nor simply emotionally reacting but living a new life; a life that surely did not come from me but from Jesus Christ.

As I began to grow spiritually, I saw that the Lord could and would use my life to minister to others. I was involved with a weekly young people's Bible study group (for 4 years) along with an evangelistic outreach program (for 3 years). These gave me the vision and understanding to see how God wanted me to use my life. Before venturing out too far, I got grounded in the Bible and in missions by training at Columbia International University's (C.I.U.) Biblical Seminary and Graduate School of Missions taking their 3-year Master of Divinity program in Cross-Cultural studies. During my studies, one summer was given to helping church planting efforts of the Bible Fellowship Church in Philadelphia and Newark. The next summer I went on a short-term missions trip to Liberia, West Africa and stayed there for one year teaching Bible and literacy in a rural Bible training center and doing evangelism among tribal Muslims under the mission board SIM International. During my last year at C.I.U., I met Sue. After graduating from seminary and getting married, Sue and I joined OMF International (Overseas Missionary Fellowship, formerly China Inland Mission), in June 1986. In October 1987 we left for the Philippines.

OMF is committed to "The Urgent Evangelization of East Asia's Millions". OMF's main approach is evangelism and discipleship to establish and build up the local Church of Jesus Christ. Because Metro-Manila is a vast, growing and needy city, OMF is committed and involved in planting the Church of Jesus Christ in this metropolis of 12+ million people.

Mrs. Susan K. Johnston

I was born and raised in a rural community in Perry County, PA with 2 sisters and 1 brother. My father recently passed away. My mother lives near Gettysburg, PA.

I grew up in a family that went to church and believed the Bible. Because I was a "good" kid and went to church I assumed I was going to heaven. In tenth grade my parents began to attend a different church. Week after week I heard the pastor explain the gospel. Pride in my own goodness and fear of letting God have control kept me from coming to Him.

But throughout that year, God showed me through His Word that He loved me with a perfect love and that I did not have to fear someone who loved me perfectly, (1 Jn. 4:18). So, one night, God worked in my heart and I knew that I was a sinner in need of Christ and that I could come freely to the One who loved me dearly. I placed my faith in Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior.

That was only the first step, for as I grew in Him, He changed my desires to be in line with His. During my 4 years at Penn State, while I was earning a B.S. in Special Education, I grew in my walk with Him through the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. I learned how to lead Bible studies and do evangelism. After college, I sensed that God was calling me into full-time Christian work.

I taught for one year in York, PA and became a member of Church of the Open Door (COD). God continued to work in my heart to burden me for full-time Christian work. The following year, I went to Philadelphia College of Bible. It was through this year, the ministry of COD and Urbana missions conference that I became interested in missions.

I spent that summer in Kenya, Africa under AIM which only increased my desire to serve Him overseas. To get more training in missions, I went through International Team's three year program which consisted of one year study and two years overseas in Jamaica. This was a tremendous growing period for me as I served as part of a church planting team. I taught at a Bible college, did evangelism, discipleship, and children's work.

During those 2 years, I became particularly burdened for those who had never heard the gospel but also realized that I needed more training. I entered C.I.U. for an M.A. in Cross-Cultural Christian Education.

Walt and I were married in October 1985 and Hannah (age 14) was born before our departure to the Philippines while Caleb (age 12) and Zachary (age 10) were both born overseas.

Present Ministry

Equipping the Philippine church through creating Filipino Christian Video training materials is our main ministry. The growth of the Christian church in the last 30 years averages 1,000 new churches annually! The evangelical church in the Philippines averages only 60 people per congregation. Discipleship is greatly needed as many of these churches have no pastor or minimally trained pastors. Filipinos want Christian training seminars but few can get to the training sessions. With our videos, the training can come to them. This term we began learning by doing. We set up a video studio and began editing and marketing our video productions. Thirteen videos were created. About 2,000 videos have been sold and are now being used in churches and homes. We have even heard that Filipinos have carried them overseas to the many working in the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Australia. Our titles cover an evangelistic drama, marriage and the family issues, Promise Keepers type material, Catholicism how tos in church planting and leadership training, evangelism, and music. This coming term we will create more videos and seek to nationalize this ministry. This will include registering our ministry as "Kaagapay Video Ministry" with the government and train a Filipino staff.

Where currently serving: Philippines
Date of present assignment: July 1992
Date of next scheduled furlough: June, 2005

Date of COD's beginning support: 5/87

Birthdates: Walter Johnston August 6, 1954
 Susan Johnston March 9, 1956
 Hannah Johnston May 11, 1987
 Caleb Johnston January 7, 1989
 Zachary Johnston March 31, 1991

Wedding Anniversary: October 19, 1985

February, 2001