

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Parkview and the Pastor family

(Jerry Fite)

**T**he first time I heard of the Pastor family, I was asked to make some tapes of leading songs we sing in our congregation and send them to a widow in the Philippines named, Cristeta Pastor. A number of women at Parkview were periodically gathering funds to send so she could take care of her various needs, especially medical needs. A good woman, trying to raise godly children, wanted the tapes so her son, Willie, could learn the songs for their public worship services.

Willie has grown up to live a godly life and preaches the gospel.

We fast forward a few years and learn that Willie is in prison in Manila. Why? An intruder broke into his house, and he killed the man in order to protect himself and his family. It was considered a self-defense issue until the family of the intruder paid a judge to bring up charges. Willie was accused of murder and has been serving time in prison.

A few weeks ago the Parkview church learned that Willie was encouraged to file papers

for a full pardon. His family did not have the money to pay for the lawyer to file the appropriate papers, so they borrowed the money from a bank in the Philippines. They put up their home as collateral to secure a loan for 60,000 Philippine Pesos, which is equivalent to about \$1,500.00 in United States dollars. When the bank called the loan due, Willie and his family were not able to pay the amount due.

Harry Osborne, an evangelist who knows the Pastor family through his many evangelistic trips to the Philippines, sent out a request for help. Caring individual Christians provided a little over half, and the Parkview congregation provided the rest that was needed. The funds allowed the debt to be paid in full, and a godly family to keep their home as they deal with the ordeal of wrongful incarceration.

Willie's wife, after receiving the funds wrote, "*We're so thankful to all of you my kind brethren at Pasadena Church of Christ and to some individual brethren who shared their bless-*

*ings and love to us in order that we can pay our debt in the bank used for filing the papers of my husband Willie in the Board of Pardon and Parole. Thank you so much my kind brethren for having a big heart. May God bless you all abundantly my kind brethren. We're very happy and thankful to God for He hear our prayers through you all my kind brethren. Again thank you so much.*"

While in prison, Willie has helped convert over 40 souls to the Lord. His wife and his children stand by him, and like Joseph, they all are determined to remain faithful to God and persevere through difficult times. Last month Willie reported that 20 inmates met with him in their mid-week service. Due to change in exchange rates and rebates connected with the early payment of the loan, Kathy was able to use some of the funds for a trip for the family to see Willie in Manila.

The money collected on the first day of the week, like in the days of Paul bring "*many thanksgivings unto God*" (2 Cor. 9:11-12).