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# On a Mission for the Missions

Preston & Joy Laughinghouse

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By Doris Batts-Murray

If you have attended BOCC's 8:00am Sunday service, chances are you have seen the smiling faces of Preston and Joy Laughinghouse. They have been members of "Body of Christ Church" for nearly five years. The Laughinghouses learned of BOCC while the church was being built near their home. Preston was born in Washington, North Carolina with two sisters, both living in the Greenville, NC area. Joy, a native of the Philippines Manila, has one brother who still lives there. Preston and Joy, who have been married for 35 years, met in the sixties while in college at Far Eastern University in the Philippines. They moved to Raleigh in 1974 when Preston decided to further his education at NC State University. Preston earned degree in History and Business Management with the help and dedication of his wife Joy.



The couple has four children, all professing salvation. Two of their sons work with Preston in the family business (Carpet Dryclean or CDC) in Raleigh, and their daughter runs their franchise in Charlotte. They have one son studying for the ministry. Joy has devoted most of their married life as a homemaker and now looks after their grandchildren during the week.

## **The Laughinghouses are on a mission to support missions.**

They became interested in missions while in the Philippines where Preston was a deacon of a Guadeloupe church.

On occasion, the Laughinghouses like to travel with BOCC's Plus Ministry when the ministry takes

trips. They also manage to travel to the Philippines annually. About three years ago, they accompany Pastor Redmond and other members from BOCC on a mission's trip to the Philippines. When missionaries from the Philippines are visiting the Raleigh area, Preston and Joy often host them in their home.

As the owner of the Carpet Dryclean franchise (carpetdryclean.com), Preston uses the profit from his businesses to support missions. They have locations in Charlotte, Fayetteville, Goldsboro and Raleigh, as well as Atlanta, GA, Richmond, VA and Montgomery, AL. The Laughinghouses' personal mission is to support financially at least 500 missionaries within the next 5 years. According to Preston, it currently takes about \$500 per month to support a Philippine missionary versus \$3500 per year for an American missionary. They mainly support the Philippine missions because they feel the Philippines can be the jumping board for the 10/40 window, which is an area of the world that contains the largest population of non-Christians. (This area extends from 10 degrees to 40 degrees north of the equator, and stretches from North Africa across to China.) Their greatest desire is that everyone is reached with God's Word and learns of Salvation through Jesus Christ. Preston says, "We like to think of Carpet Dryclean as being the five loaves of bread and the two fish that Jesus used to feed the multitude in the Bible."