



# Seek God Ministries

Website: [www.SeekGod.org](http://www.SeekGod.org)

Email: [seekgod.support@gmail.com](mailto:seekgod.support@gmail.com)

Ministry Update March 27, 2016

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*According to His great mercy, He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3)*

Dear friends and partners,

Resurrection Greetings from The Philippines. The resurrection of Jesus is continually proven by the transforming work He is doing in you and me; and in the hearts of so many people in the nations of the world. The body of Christ everywhere testifies, *He is risen*. I believe that for eternity we will be discovering the blessings given to us because of the price Jesus paid on the cross.

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And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.  
(Ephesians 2:6-7)

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As I begin writing this it is Good Friday in The Philippines. We live in one of those places in The Philippines where every year a few guys like to pretend to crucify themselves. They begin with marching down the road flogging themselves, already one went by on our road. Later, others help in the flogging, then they have their hands nailed to a cross and the cross is stood upright. However, unlike Jesus, their feet are not nailed to the cross and they stand on a platform attached to the cross to support their weight. They are also tied to the cross; I guess for "safety". They only remain on the cross for a matter of minutes in most cases. It really is a mockery compared to what Jesus actually suffered for us. The guys who do it have various reasons like, their sins are really bad, or they are a type of witch doctor trying to get more power. However, the real reason is because they do not understand the Gospel. In this Catholic country there is still a great need for evangelization.



I mentioned in a previous newsletter that Suzzhette is working to complete her degree so she can become a licensed Social Worker. A Social Worker is required for every organization that provides social services in The Philippines. She is leaning a lot and developing many local government contacts, this will help us in the future. She is also learning about the many rural neighborhoods in our area and the needs of the children in those places.

Left, Suzzhette visiting a poor area as a part of her training



You may remember from a previous newsletter I told you about a boy that I called Ryan, (not his real name). We have been learning more about him and it seems that no one is really taking care of him in a serious way. Apparently, the mother gave him away at birth to another lady and he has the last name of the adoptive mother, but no birth certificate. It does not seem that he is very bonded with the adoptive mother. It appears that Ryan has a father, but he does not really care for him. The father's mother, Ryan's grandmother, told Ryan that the adoptive mother was not his real family and that he should come and live with her.

Above, Ryan from a previous newsletter, Below, a more recent picture. (Note pictures are distorted to protect identity)



Ryan was hurt and probably confused by this news. He went to live with the grandmother at that time. Which, is why we did not see him for a few months. The grandmothers house is a few miles away from us. Later, the grandmother suffered a stroke and is now bedridden, she is being cared for by her daughter, Ryan's aunt. For whatever reasons Ryan does not want to stay with the aunt, for whatever reasons. The father told Ryan that his mother was a prostitute and moved to another province after Ryan was born.

Ryan has never known his mother. However, when we asked him who loves him the most he said his mother. He has a hope that his mother will come and get him some day. When I heard that I thought that is a hope that lines up with God's will. Ultimately, we always want to see families restored when possible, because we know that is God's desire. We are happy to pray in agreement with him for that. When we asked Ryan who loves you the most out of the people he knows he said his grandmother, who is bedridden because of the stroke. He said the grandmother cannot walk or talk.

Ryan goes from place to place looking for where he can sleep at night and where someone will give him some food. We are one of the places he comes, sometimes more frequently than other times. The adoptive mother say she knows his birthday and that he is ten years old. He is very small, and only weighs about forty pounds.

We are providing Ryan with nutritious food and vitamins to help him in his physical growth. We also minister to him spiritually, as he is able to absorb things in his heart. We are also continuing to evaluate greater ways that we can help him. We are limited by our resources and by the rules of DSWD, the government organization that regulates social services in The Philippines. Which brings me to the question what about the Transformation Center?

The Transformation Center is a great resource and has tremendous potential. It is an ongoing miracle of God's provision. If you have contributed financially to the ministry you have been a part of us obtaining and restoring the Transformation Center. We thank God for you. However, we still have a long way to go toward restoration and getting to a level of support where we can provide residential care for kids.

We have a few precious partners that provide consistent financial support and that is why we have been able to continue ministering for eight years in The Philippines and on the Internet. Actually, we thank God for everyone who has ever given to help us in the ministry. Each one has been a vital part in helping us get this far.

It is most important for the Transformation Center to be a spiritual place first. That has been our focus while we are waiting on God for the next step. I can say that our family is being transformed here. We have all grown spiritually, especially over the last couple of years. We are also seeing the pastors we work with growing in maturity. One of our goals is to see the Transformation Center used as a place to refresh ministry workers in the presence of God. That has happened and we want to see it happen more.

It cost much less money to do spiritual work than it does to provide a children's home that meets all the needs of raising kids. We can feed a meal to hungry street kids, plant some words from God in their heart, and pray with them. We try to establish relationships and plant seeds, and that is important. One encounter can make a difference in a person's life.

The local government needs an organization to provide what they call a drop-in-center for kids in our region. A drop-in-center is a place that kids can come and stay on a temporary basis while they are being processed for a more long-term solution to their situation. When a child needs to be removed from a home or authorities need a place to bring a kid they take them to a drop-in-center. In our region there is not one available. In addition, a drop-in-center serves as a safe place street kids can voluntarily stay and be cared for, temporarily. For instance, it would be place that a kid like Ryan could stay until a more permanent solution is found for him.

We have been considering this for three reasons:

- 1) Because of the need.
- 2) It would cost less than providing full residential care but it could be an important step in growing to that level.
- 3) We have a place that could serve in this way.

Below, the room we call "the school"

We have a room that we call "the school", because we have used it for students before. It seems that it might make a good drop-in-center. Attached to the school is a kitchen, dining room, and a bathroom. They all need some renovation. We also need to equip the kitchen and we need furniture. We need to fix the flat roof above the school because it leaks, especially in rainy season. We have tried different roof coatings but nothing keeps working for very long. We need to restore the bathroom and plumbing. We also need more windows and doors.





On the left, is the kitchen and on the right is a picture of the dining area



After the building restoration we will need funds for fulltime staff, food, and supplies. As for the staff, we are required to provide 24-hour supervision for the kids. We are also required to have a social worker which, Suzzhette is training to become. A social worker makes reports about the kids, investigates family situations, and looks for long term solutions to help the kids. We will also need to hire staff for security.



In other news our son Joshua is now 16 and taller than me. He is planning to go on his first missions trip without his family. We are so thankful to the Lord for our kids and how they are maturing in Christ. Joshua is a major help to us in the ministry. He also plays guitar and often leads worship. The letter below is from him in his own words...

Hello Everyone,

I have the opportunity to go on a two-week missions trip to Thailand this coming July, 2016. This trip is put together by my school, Lighthouse Christian Academy. It will be credited to students as part of our high school curriculum. Students from all over the world will be participating, and the goal of the mission is to serve the needy as well as help students gain ministry experience. The first week is to be spent training and getting to know our team members. Training for service will include practical classes, language lessons, evening devotions, studying God's word, and learning how to recognize and fulfill our unique callings by studying what it means to serve the Lord wholeheartedly.

Once training is complete the second week will be spent serving and ministering at needy schools that use the A.C.E. curriculum program. We will travel in teams to offsite locations implementing what we have learned and blessing the people in the ways we can. We will have the chance to share the Gospel with them through our personal testimonies.

I believe that this opportunity will be beneficial to me both mentally and spiritually by helping me gain both ministry and life experience. I am excited to see how God will use me and what new things he will teach me through this. I am also very much looking forward to meeting other students my age who share the same passion and love for Jesus that I have.

I have already been accepted by the school as an attendee, but am still trying to raise the amount of money needed. I have to pay for airfare, the participation fee, and other travel expenses. In total I need about \$900.

Joshua Ballard  
Exodus 33:11

If you want to give toward helping Joshua with the mission's trip just make a note "For Joshua Trip" along with your gift.

As always, we are so thankful to the Lord for you who support SGM through prayer and giving. You are a vital part of what we are able to do in The Philippines and around the world through the internet.

If you are in a country that allows you to donate to a US based organization then you can give directly to Seek God Ministries through PayPal at the website, go to <http://www.seekgod.org/> and click on the "Donation" button.

If your country does not allow you to give to foreign NGO's you can send funds through PayPal to my personal account email: [GaryRobertBallard@gmail.com](mailto:GaryRobertBallard@gmail.com) this is a personal account and you can give as you would send money to a friend. Let me know if you have any problems doing this.

<p>You can also send a check by mail to this address in the USA:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seek God Ministries 1165 W Ironwood Dr Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-2604 USA</p>	<p>In The Philippines, you can send donations in Pesos to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seek God Ministries PO Box 140 Subic Bay Freeport Zone Philippines 2222</p>
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