



Seek God Ministries

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The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies. (Psalms 18:2-3 NASB)

Dear friends and partners,

In the last newsletter I mentioned how we had been experiencing frequent heavy monsoon rains for quite some time, which was causing flooding in some areas. I am happy to say that we are back to a more normal rainy season now. We see the sun sometimes, usually in the morning. In the afternoon it is normal for thunderhead clouds to form and we get rain, sometimes with thunder storms. This is typical tropical weather during the rainy season. As I am writing this, Tuesday morning our time, we have dark clouds and it is raining, but not too hard. Good time to catch up on some office work.

We are very thankful to the Lord for protecting The Philippines from typhoons so far this year. There have been several that have gone up and around the top of the country. Some have been category 5. The northern most part of The Philippines has experienced some effects of the outer edges of typhoons passing by. However, it is really amazing that the country has not been hit directly by any major typhoons so far this year.



Recently, we were doing a Bible study with some of the kids that we feed at the Transformation Center, when a snake dropped out of a nearby tree. It was not a big snake, but two of the kids said it was a cobra because they saw it stand up, the way cobras do.

It quickly disappeared somewhere near the tree. We were not able to find it. The other kids only saw the snake scurry away and they did not think it was a cobra. I did not worry too much because we have been living near the rain forest for nearly nine years and have not ever seen a cobra.

Although, we have heard stories, but they are usually from years ago. We do see snakes from time to time, especially in rainy season because that is when they like to travel, when everything is wet.

One week later, our dogs were barking at something under some shrubs. The way they were acting I thought it could be a snake, then I saw one of them jerk back like something tried to bite her. So we went on red alert and everyone manned their battle stations. We were surprised to discover it

was a cobra. Probably the same one that fell out of the tree. Suzzhette got a glimpse of it after it fell and she thinks it was the same size and color as the snake she saw scurry away, a week before. We were able to dispose of it before it hurt anyone. When I checked it out online it seems to match up with what is known as a Philippine Cobra, they are known to inhabit our region. It likes places near water, we have rice fields nearby, and obviously in rainy season it is wet everywhere.



A Philippines Cobra is a highly venomous species of spitting cobra. The average size is about three feet. This one was about 14 inches so it is a younger one. We pray that the mother or father will not come to visit us, not to mention siblings and any other relatives. Thank You Lord for your protection and thank you partners for your prayers.

In other news we met a pastor who is from Nepal. He is attending a graduate school of theology in Manila. The school is focused on developing leaders who will go back to their countries and make a difference as Christian leaders. The school has over two hundred pastors attending from all over Asia. Most of the students are from nations where Christians are a small minority in the country. They know what persecution is first hand.



The pastor shared with us that he and his wife had a desire to go to the ocean. That seemed strange since we are in The Philippines. However, he shared that they have been at the school for over a year and have not been able to see the ocean except for Manila bay, one time.

Their finances are very limited and they did not know anyone from here that could guide them. They were probably afraid to venture out to far in Manila on their own. We were able to bring the pastor and his family to the Transformation Center, we are near the ocean. We took him, his wife, and their five-year-old daughter to the beach for a whole day. The Lord gave them beautiful weather. We had prayed the night

before because the forecast was not looking good. As you can imagine being from a place in the Himalayan Mountains, experiencing the ocean was very special for them.

They stayed with us two nights and three days. Our fellowship was wonderful as we learned about their life in Nepal and I was able to share things we have learned in ministry that have been valuable lessons. They asked us to be mentors to them. We know this was the Lord. It may be the opening of a door into a new ministry opportunity and another way that we can use the Transformation Center. The Philippines is a gateway to reaching Asia. We have invited them to come back and bring two or three friends from the school also. We told the pastor that the Lord will

guide him about who to bring. However, we would like to target certain countries that the Lord has given us a burden for already. Pray with us about this opportunity to sew into future leaders throughout Asia.

We continue to need to work on the Transformation Center. To be honest, at this time we are not able to keep up with the maintenance on the building. We are very thankful that we have a few faithful monthly supporters that help us continue to minister here. However, prices have continued to go up as they have everywhere. At this time, we could really use an increase in funding. With the Transformation Center we have the potential to do so much more, but it will require finances.

Possibly because of the things happening in The Philippines, the potential has never been greater to reach people. We are seeing a greater desire to know God, this is especially true for the young people. We are continuing to seek the Lord for wisdom about the best ways that we can use the resources we have for His glory.

We are forever thankful to you who continue to support the ministry 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: <https://www.paypal.me/GaryBallard> 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 PO Box 1021 Post Falls, Idaho 83877 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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