



Seek God Ministries

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But this I recall and therefore have I hope and expectation: It is because of the Lord's mercy and loving-kindness that we are not consumed, because His [tender] compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great and abundant is Your stability and faithfulness. The Lord is my portion or share, says my living being (my inner self); therefore, will I hope in Him and wait expectantly for Him. (Lamentations 3:21-24 AMP)

Dear Friends and Partners

It has been hot in The Philippines for over a month, very hot, over 100° Fahrenheit sometimes. It has also been very dry. However, today we received a good early morning soaking rain, so refreshing. All the plants are already looking greener and happy. It reminded me of how the Lord's mercies are fresh every morning.

We seem to be in a time of extremes on the earth, good and bad. What you focus on determines your perspective and how you feel. One thing that is always a happy thought, that is that the mercy of our Father is forever. *Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever, (Psalms 118:1).*

Whatever you may be going through, it is good to remind yourself of your union with Christ. *In union with him, through the shedding of his blood, we are set free—our sins are forgiven; this accords with the wealth of the grace he has lavished on us, (Ephesians 1:7-8 CJB).* Recognizing your union with Christ can always refresh your perspective and refresh you. *Rejoice in union with the Lord always! I will say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 CJB).*

Because Suzzhette is now a licensed social worker she has new opportunities to help people and share the love of Christ in so many ways. She has also developed many contacts with other organizations both in the government and with other non-government organizations. She can refer people in need to services and make recommendations that may help them in different ways. However, the services available in The Philippines do not compare to the quality and quantity of what is available in the USA. We are blessed here in that it is still ok to pray with people you are serving, without controversy. Which, is the best help they can get anyway, and most everyone here accepts that.

Last week we heard about a situation in another town in our province. An older lady who lived a very poor life and survived by collecting recycle materials and selling them, seemed to lose her mind, for lack of a better term. One night she went around trying to burn four families' houses, in the middle of the night, while the people were sleeping. These are houses that can burn, poor families living in makeshift shelters sometimes made from scrap wood and bamboo. We heard she used gas at one place. However, everyone was able to put the fires out and no one was hurt.

The people went to the barangay captain and complained about the woman. A barangay captain is like the head of a small town or community and they are the first line of law enforcement in a

community. They can also decide matters of dispute and they try to keep the peace and order of a community. The barangay captain told the people to just kill the woman and then drag her on your property, so you can say it was self-defense. Not all barangay captains are that bad. He probably has no place he can take the woman or refer her, even if they arrest her.

The woman ran away the night she tried to burn the houses, some say super naturally fast. Last I heard, they have not seen her since then. There is a rain forest near there where she may have run into. I do not think any of those people will take the advice of the barangay captain because Filipino's generally have a of fear of God, and they believe in Karama, what we call sowing and reaping.

I am telling you this story, so you can understand there is a different mind-set here and a tremendous lack of services. Especially for mental health and even health in general, for most of the people. If you saw the condition of some of the hospitals here, you would be shocked.

However, there is some help available to people in need and a social worker is the one who connects those in need with where they may get some help. Suzzhette knows many people in our community and she has taught "Family Development", as a volunteer for DSWD. A few months ago, one of the women who was in one of her classes, came and told Suzzhette about a family in need that lived near her.

The family is a Father who has seven kids, ages 15 to 4. Four of the kids in the family are possibly deaf and mute. The mother left the family about three years ago and she took a three-year-old with her who was able to hear and speak. The 15-year-old, a boy, is "married" and living with the wife's family. Yes, that can happen here, and it often seems to be generational. *Married* means living together, start a family, and consider it marriage. They have not seen the mother since she left, but they heard that she is with another man and has two more kids.

One of the deaf-mute kids is living with another relative. So, the father is left with three possibly deaf-mute kids and one that can hear and speak. The father is very poor and works as a caretaker on some land outside of town, this is where the family lives. The father seems sincere in trying to take care of his kids the best he can. *(Note some pictures are distorted to protect identity.)*



Left, the father and the four kids he is trying to take care of. The two girls and the youngest boy seem to be deaf and mute. The older boy can hear and speak but does not go to school. Below, is their house and the younger boy is standing by the tree.



Suzzhette knew of an organization that takes in blind and deaf children to help teach them how to communicate, survive, and hopefully develop a livelihood. She talked to the director and they said they are willing to take the kids, but they need to get a physical exam first. Suzzhette and the neighbor, who referred her to the family, took the kids to the doctor. They travelled on a bus for over an hour to the city where they could have the doctor see them. This was all new for these

kids. They were amazed at what they saw along the way. At the doctor's office while they were waiting they were fascinated with the electric fan blowing air, the light switch turning the light on and off, the scale for weighing and so many other things. They waited for the doctor for several hours, a common thing here. Waiting is part of living in The Philippines it can be very difficult for Americans to adjust to that. When they were finished at the doctor Suzzhette took them all to a



fast food place to have lunch. Actually, they waited so long at the doctor is was dinner time by then. At the restaurant the kids were amazed again at seeing so many new things like the hand dryer.

The physical exam approved them to be accepted to the Center where they can get help and training. After they enter that program they will take them to a specialist in another city to get their hearing evaluated. After a process of communicating with the father he agreed to let the three deaf and mute kids go to the Center.

A few days ago, we picked up the father and the kids to take them to be introduced to the people at the Center. As you can see in the picture the three that would need to go to the Center are a little nervous. It is hard to know what they understand but they obviously sensed this could be life changing. Even without being able to talk to them they seemed to know that they could be leaving the only world they have ever known.



At the center the people were very nice and even the kids tried to reach out to them. However, this was all so new and overwhelming to them.

The director is a very nice and compassionate lady. She tried to make them feel comfortable and she was willing to take them in right then.

However, when the director showed them their new beds and was able to motion, "this is where you sleep", it was too much. The two girls were very scared and started to cry. They have probably never slept in a real bed and they might like it if they gave it a try, it is much softer than the ground. But, it means separation, which they have never experienced. It means they stay there and the father goes home with their brother and they are left there alone with all these strangers in a strange place.

So, we all went back home. Please pray for all of them. It is sad that the two girls did not get help when they were younger. The boy is still young enough that he could probably learn and do well with what the Center could teach him. It will be more difficult for the older ones to adjust.

We know that God heals deaf and mute people. We continue to pray for them and believe. We are also praying that the Lord will reveal Himself to them supernaturally, even in dreams and visions. We have seen one boy's hearing restored in an ear that he could not hear out of. We have also seen the Lord touch kids through dreams and visions. We will also keep in contact with them and the Center to see how we can help them.

This newsletter is probably already too long so I will end here. If you are still reading this, you must be one of the people who care about us and the ministry. You may be wondering how we are doing.

We are doing well generally. We have challenges that come up and just like everyone else and we are learning to overcome, as we all are. Financially, we could use an increase in support. The dollar is very high which is good when you convert it to pesos however, prices have taken a big jump. Maybe it is in response to the dollar or maybe because of worries about the government, or both. But whatever gain we had from a strong dollar has been more than wiped out from price increases.

That being said, we still remain very thankful to God and you. For you that pray for us and support us, we could not do it without you, you are an important part of God's plan, for heaven and earth.

May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves. We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, in Him.
(Colossians 1:11-14)

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