



Seek God Ministries

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See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

(Isaiah 43:19 NIV)

Dear Friends and Partners,

Wow, July is almost here already, summer is happening in the USA, and rainy season is beginning in The Philippines. The past few months have been very busy for us. Gateway International brought a small team and they did three conferences in different cities. We helped with two of them. Sometimes it is nice to have visitors from the USA because it helps us remember the privilege, we have of helping the people here. One of the women on the team was really touched by the kids we minister to. This often happens when people experience a mission's trip for the first time and see the needs and meet the kids. We told her about one boy, his situation at home, and that we often feed and minister to him. She made the comment that if you do not do anything else the rest of your life that is enough. I was surprised by the comment, but I remember when I first came here and probably thought the same thing.



We also had some youth from another city stay with us. They are good friends with our kids. I am amazed at the spiritual maturity and love for the Lord that is evident in many young people we know.

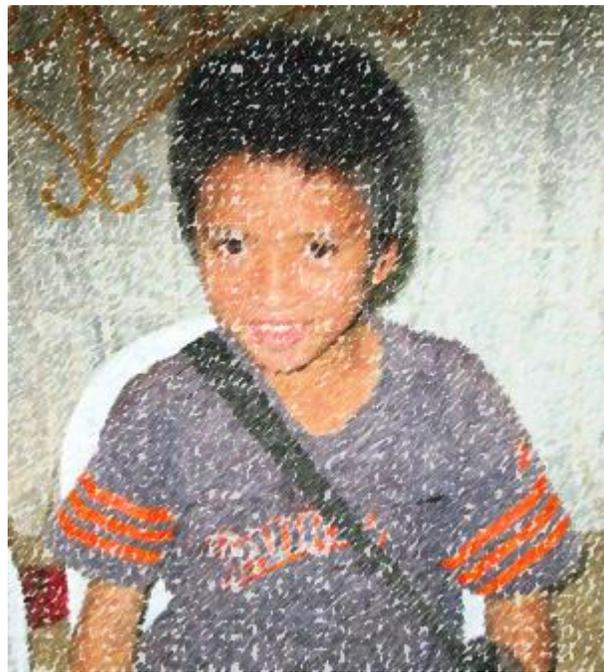
In June, both Alianna and Shekinah had important birthdays. Alianna turned 18 and Shekinah is now 16. It is

hard for me to believe they can be that old. I am extremely thankful to the Lord for the spiritual maturity of our kids. I constantly get compliments from people in ministry that are so impressed with our kids. For you that are supporting us you have been a major part in that development. They have become the people they are because we came here and involved them in the ministry at a young age. Joshua is now pretty much doing the kids ministry and really enjoys it and the kids love him. All three of our kids, love working with the kids here and are excited to see the them grow in the Lord.



Above left, a girl having lunch after the Bible Study. In the center, a boy showing a new creature he found. We live near a rain forest and we have some very colorful and unusual looking bugs show up. The photo above on the right is the boy and his little sister. The girl is sitting in a makeshift toy cart that they made into a wheelchair for the girl. She has not started walking yet, we are not sure why, we do not see her often. It is a heart touching site to see him try to maneuver the cart to transport her. Their family has 7 young kids and they are very poor.

In my last newsletter I told about how Shekinah experienced a vision and helped keep a boy from harming himself. About one month later, we had one of the kids that we have known for a long time take his own life. It has been difficult for us to process this.



This is a picture of him in 2008 shortly after we moved to The Philippines. When he was very young, maybe 5 or 6 years old, his dad was drunk and hit him very hard so that his head smashed against a concrete wall in their house. It must have been a severe blow because it caused a neurological problem that affected his eyes. If you have visited here, you probably met him. I had everyone that came pray for him. We took him to three different eye doctors, but they said there was nothing they could do because it was probably a neurological brain injury. Over the last few years we have not seen him often.

He got involved in a sports program for disabled youth and he really excelled in the track competition. The program is like special Olympics. He won medals and travelled to different places in The Philippines for competition. He quit the program

for some reason.

In the past there were times when he was very focused on Jesus and would do well for a time. He lived in a rough neighborhood with a lot of temptation and peer pressure. He also suffered a lot of ridicule from some of the people in his neighborhood, especially when he was trying to live for the Lord, and that affected him also.



I think it was in November when he came to see us, he was doing very well at that time, better than I had ever seen him before. He was active in a church in his area and they had incorporated him in their ministry. They were printing the Bible in very big letters for him, so he could read it. He seemed very happy and was talking about becoming a pastor someday.

Then toward the end of December he came to see us, and he was very different. He was not talking much and played with a guitar for a long time by himself. It was Sunday and I asked if he had gone to his church, he said no. Toward evening he asked if I would give him 3000 pesos, about 75 USD. I asked why do you need 3000 pesos? He looked at me but could not answer. When I looked in his eyes, he seemed angry, and I suspected he was dealing with a demon. Because he asked for that much money, I thought that he had gotten involved with drugs, methamphetamine is a big problem here.

I said I cannot give you 3000 pesos. He then asked, how about 300. I said I will give you 300 pesos to help you with transportation to go back home and get something to eat. He was angry when he left. We called his aunt, who we know, and she told us he has been acting strange, but she was sure that he was not using drugs. She did not know why he quit going to church. In January he came back but we were not here. We were told he seemed better but still not fully normal.



In April on a Monday morning he visited us again. He told Joshua he wanted to see me. I came out to meet him and he was very apologetic and said that the Lord had showed him that he was treating people badly. He seemed ok and he hugged me and Joshua.

He seemed almost normal, I thought. He told us about a dream he had that had affected him. In the dream he was hugging Jesus and he was so happy, then there was loud clapping and voices trying to distract him, he turned to look at them and immediately dropped into a pit where he was tormented by demons. I told him every time you focus on Jesus you are back with Him.

I shared some things to encourage him. Including a recent testimony about a man that is blind but goes to a church, we are friends with the pastor. The blind man loves to worship and during worship at one point he began to call out that he sees Jesus and He was pointing to a corner in the building. Although, he was blind he could see Jesus with his spiritual eyes. I shared several other testimonies with him that I thought would help encourage him.

He said that he was having trouble sleeping. We came in the house and we fed him lunch and then he laid on the couch while we continued doing normal things we needed to do. I don't know if he was able to sleep or not, but he seemed fine.

Toward evening he came to me and said he was ready to go. I told him I thought he would stay the night and get some sleep that would be good for him. He then said, *I'm not going to hurt your family, but I have been thinking of suicide.* This was a shock to me. My first thought was, I guess you can not stay the night here.

I tried again to encourage him in the Lord. He said that he was having trouble controlling his thoughts. I realized he is dealing with some mental symptoms. I remembered that B Vitamins and especially Niacin is good for a lot of mental issues, including insomnia. I told him I will give him a ride home because it is after dark and with his eye situation it would be difficult to travel on a bus. I also told him I am going to give him some vitamins that can maybe help you.

In the Philippines we do not have the resources for health and especially mental health like we do in the USA. We laid hands on him and prayed for him. I then took him into town where we picked up Suzzhette and Alianna. Then we took him up to his home. He was very tranquil the whole time and seemed to be at peace.

That was Monday night. On Wednesday morning I called his aunt and told her what happened on Monday. I told her that I had given him some vitamins that could help him. I wanted to know if he was taking them and if he was feeling better. I shared that he mentioned thinking about suicide. She then told me that sometimes he was talking to himself and had some other mental symptoms, at times. She said that he had been going

to a center that helped the blind and they were the ones who got him into the sports program. I said maybe they can direct us to where to get some help for him. I told her that we need to pay attention to what he is saying and take it seriously. She then tried to contact his mother and sister but was not able to reach their cell phones, all day Wednesday.

Thursday morning, we got a call from the aunt that he had taken his own life, early that morning. He had hung himself with a bedsheet in the center where he was staying. Later, I found out that his eyes were getting worse and he had a great fear of going blind, he did not want to be dependent on other people. I also found out this was his third attempt; he had tried twice before. I also learned that he had been going to everyone to get forgiveness and make sure all his relationships were good. Including, to a brother that he never got along with, he apologized and hugged him.

If I had known all of that I probably would have handled it differently. Looking back, it seems that he had already made the decision and he came to visit us to apologize and say goodbye. This has been difficult for us because you can't help but think, *what if*. There is no doubt the decision was the wrong thing to do. We are commanded to choose life, sometimes life is painful, but the pain is temporary and there is always hope in Christ. I am not going to judge, and I know God is more merciful than we can comprehend. I believe he is in Heaven, because he wanted to be with Jesus.

It is hard for us not to feel like we failed in some way. However, I remember that we are the ones that introduced him to Jesus, and he had many times of experiencing the presence of God in Kingdom Kids. I believe his life was better because we came to The Philippines, and I believe his eternal life is also. He was a part of our life here and we carry his memory in our hearts. I feel that the best way to make sure good comes out of this is to learn what we can from his life and apply it.

Thank you for standing with us. We pray for the Lord to multiply blessings for you and your family, in every way and in greater measure than you can imagine.

I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the perception of your mind may be enlightened so you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the glorious riches of His inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power to us who believe, according to the working of His vast strength.
(Ephesians 1:16-19)

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