



# Seek God Ministries

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## Ministry Update March 27, 2013

*Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46-47 NKJV)*

Dear friends and partners:

As we are getting ready to celebrate resurrection Sunday I am amazed again at how time passes so quickly. So many things are happening here and in the nations of the world that show us the great commission is happening and it must continue. In places where the Gospel has made an impact we are faced with the problem of other doctrines polluting the simple Gospel message. The apostle Paul wrote in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:3 *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.* How true that has proven to be throughout history.

In The Philippines Catholicism has had a big influence on the country and the culture. The message has been to have relationship with the institution, primarily. So the people are taught good and bad from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Not, relationship with Jesus, the Tree of Life. As a result there is much idol worship and strange religious traditions. More than a million people will gather to line a route in Manila on Good Friday as they take the black Nazarene statue out for a stroll from its usual shrine. The people believe the idol has great powers and they try to get as close to it as they can. The whole ordeal causes injuries and major traffic problems in parts of Manila. Another thing that happens here is mock crucifixions where guys carry crosses while flogging themselves on their backs. It seems to be a contest that whoever is the most bloody is the most holy. Some go to the extreme of being nailed up on a cross.

The good thing is the country is celebrating the resurrection and it is a major holiday in The Philippines. Many people will have the week off for Holy Week, as they call it. The kids are out of school for the year. Actually March is the beginning of what they call summer here it will go through May. The beginning of June is considered to be the beginning of rainy season, again. Please pray with us that we will be able to prepare the Transformation Center for the rainy season before it starts. Last year we had a heavy rainy season and it was a battle to try to keep the building from experiencing major damage. The Lord really helped us make it through.



We just had graduations here. In The Philippines kids in elementary school graduate at the end of sixth grade; then they go on to four years of high school, hopefully. Several of our Kingdom Kids graduated from sixth grade, and we had one who graduated from High School. Ceriza, was the Salutatorian for the sixth grade graduation. We are very proud of the kids because we know them we know what is happening in their lives and we know some of them may have not made that milestone without some help and encouragement.  
*-Ceriza giving her Salutatorian speech.*



Many kids here drop out even in elementary because of the hardships of poverty. We want to thank all of our partners for helping us help them. Part of what we do here is to try and encourage the kids in their education. Some we are helping with their expenses to make sure they complete their education. High school is even a bigger challenge for many here because they will need money for transportation. The high schools are far apart. The closest one to the area where we have Kingdom Celebration requires about a 30 minute jeepney ride to get there.

**Graduation Day at the local elementary school**



I have mentioned Sandi before. We have seen her grow in the Lord so much since we came to The Philippines. Her mother died giving birth to her and she has never known her father. She was raised by her very poor grandmother. Sandi has a sincere love for God. She also has some creative talents and she did very well in school, she is bright. We encouraged her to continue into college which she did, reluctantly at first. She was able to get a partial scholarship and some help from us and lots of help from God and now she is also going to graduate in April. She will be a teacher. She still needs some help for some final expenses which we hope to be able to help her with also.

**Above Sandi, Below some of our kids that graduated 6<sup>th</sup> grade**



In the last Newsletter I mentioned how a boy we were helping stole some items from the Transformation Center, including two computers and a digital camera. We were not able to recover the items. The boy was going to go into a program for kids in trouble with the law. He has a history of being in trouble even though he is only nine years old. However, there does not seem to be a place that can take him. There is basically no juvenile justice system in The Philippines. Older criminals are taking advantage of that to recruit street kids to do crimes.

We still care about the boy who stole from us and we are praying for wisdom from God about how we can help him. We can not have him come back into the Transformation Center at least not until we can trust him again. Obviously the boy needs a change of heart which can only come from a God encounter, spiritual awakening. For now he does not seem to be interested in God. We still see him some times and have talked to him a few times. He is protecting the people he gave the stolen items too. We do not know if that is out of fear or loyalty or both. He does not realize that someone was just using him. He probably received very little for the stolen items. Please continue to pray for him his future would be very dark without Jesus. We believe that God has another plan pray for us to have wisdom and understanding concerning him.

We are continuing to feed hungry kids at least the ones we know. Some of them are ok for periods of time and then other times they are going hungry because for what ever reasons there is no food at their house. I am getting to where I can see hunger in a kid. By that I mean I can see visible signs of malnutrition beginning to happen. There are times when kids are getting fed and they start to grow and then the next time you see them it seems that they have shrunk. I have seen that many times kids can actually shrink. The good thing is that if we get them early enough while they are still growing, they can recover with food, vitamins, and love they will catch-up to where they should be in their development and achieve normal growth. Thank you partners for helping us.

We are hoping to be able to do some camps over the summer. We want to bring kids, a group at a time, for a few days at the Transformation Center for fun, recreation, and time with God. We want them to become more sensitive to Jesus living in them and them living in Christ. The Lord has been giving me some revelations about living in the secret place. I hope to be able to put a message out about that on the internet soon.

We pray the Lord bless you and your family abundantly in every way. The Lord strengthen you with resurrection power in Christ Jesus.

*Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. (Jude 1:2 NKJV)*

## Goals

*Note: the list below is in priority order according to the needs of the ministry and the number of lives that are affected*

1. More regular monthly support to continue the ministry and be able to help more kids. **Update** with our expenses and cost of operation our needed survival support is now at \$2,500 US dollars per month. When we get more than that we are able to do more than survive like do outreaches, maintenance on the buildings and other needed projects. So far this month we have failed to get to the survival level. Our goal is to get our support up to \$7,500 per month so that we can work on the transformation center and be able to take in children in need.
2. \$23,000 US dollars for a Toyota 15 Passenger van, our current van is a 1994 Toyota; it is 19 years old and has served us well for six years but is now requiring expensive repairs more frequently. We need transportation for so many things we do in The Philippines including outreaches to street kids.
3. \$35,000 USD to purchase the lot behind the Transformation Center to use as a mini-farm for raising produce for the ministry, to feed the poor, and for possible income. **Update** the bank who owns the lot has warned us that they have two offers on the property for commercial development. They now want 2.5 million pesos for the property which would be \$62,500 US

dollars at 40 pesos per dollar. I am not sure if that price is true, we feel that we could get it for less with cash, but we do know people are interested in buying the big lot. It will be a loss to not have that lot because the Transformation Center would be surrounded on four sides and it will forever limit what we can do at the Transformation Center.

4. Funds for remodeling the Transformation Center we possibly need \$60,000 USD for completion but we can work in stages as funds become available.

We are so thankful for the Lord's provision and we are so thankful for YOU. All of you who have prayed for us and given financially to help us get this far, THANK YOU! We know that the Lord sends very special people to help in this ministry. The Lord is the One building the Transformation Center; He is the One producing fruit in the lives of people as each of us obey His voice.

We love you, and pray God's blessings on you and your family; Gary, Suzzette, and Kids

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<p>This is our <b>new</b> mail address for donations in the USA...</p> <p><b>Seek God Ministries</b> <b>1165 W Ironwood Dr</b> <b>Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-2604</b> <b>USA</b></p>	<p>In the Philippines you can send donations in Pesos to:</p> <p><b>Seek God Ministries</b> <b>PO Box 140</b> <b>Subic Bay Freeport Zone</b> <b>Philippines 2222</b></p>
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*As it is written: "HE HAS DISPERSED ABROAD, HE HAS GIVEN TO THE POOR; HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God. (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 9:9-12)*

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