



Seek God Ministries

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Ministry Update September 6, 2011

Dear Friends and Partners:

Here we are in the beginning of September already; time seems to fly by since we came to The Philippines nearly four years ago. Part of the reason for that is that we are often busy dealing with so many people in a day. Our extended family now includes three girls and five boys and that presents daily challenges also. They range in age from four years old to sixteen.

Today as I am preparing to send this newsletter out we had a visit from Jojo. If you have been following our newsletters since we came to The Philippines you have heard of him before. When we first came to The Philippines he was one of the first street kids we met. We learned that he was from the area we lived in and we invited him to Kingdom Kids which is now Kingdom Celebration. He came with several street friends. Jojo was a hard case at first sometimes causing trouble and often fighting. We prayed for him several times. He has never been to school. We tried to teach him some basic reading and writing for awhile but he gave up. He is actually has a leader type personality in some ways. He has brought many street kids to our place and even some adults. The girl I talk about below named Sandi and her grandmother were first brought to our place by Jojo.

In a previous update, a few months ago I told you about how Jojo came to our place and told me that he and two other street kids, who we feel called to help (one is Gerald who I mentioned before, the other Gerald's brother) had got together on the street and prayed. They gave their lives to Jesus. When you plant God's word and you sew prayers into people you do not know when the seeds will begin to grow and produce fruit. However, if it is done with love I really believe it will produce fruit. The Holy Spirit does the work as we cooperate with Him. I can honestly say that since that time Jojo has seemed different and he has been trying to avoid street life and all the bad things that go with that. Jojo had experienced many very bad things in his past.

Jojo came today to tell us he is living in another province on a relative's farm. He said "I am safe there". I knew he was referring to street life where he was not safe. Jojo said he was guarding the cattle. I thought that was funny because he has always had a fear of big animals. I said how do you do that? He said, "I pray a lot". Isn't that just like God to position us in the place where we have to learn to overcome with His help and by trusting Him more? *And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; (Acts 17:26-27)*

In the last email I let you know that we were able to make the big house payment that was due at the end of June. The money for the house payment came in just in time for us to make the payment at the bank. For those who may not know we are working to purchase and restore a very large house which we call The Fathers Glory Home (FGH). We hope to develop it into a place to bring homeless street kids who we rescue. Our next big payment is due in December. Currently we owe 5.1 million pesos on the mortgage for the house and property, (about \$120,000 US dollars, the dollar has gone down since our last payment). We are making progress from the original 6.5 million peso purchase price. We have a five year contract with large payments every six months, our goal is to pay off the balance early so we can focus on restoring and using the house.

For now we are continuing the work on renovating the FGH as we have resources available. Rainy season began in June here and it has been a very rainy monsoon season this year. That has kept us pinned down some days. The previous two years were mild rainy seasons, but this year we have had a huge amount of rain and it is nearly every day. The heavy rains exposed some leaks at FGH. We made them a priority for repair to prevent further damage. We are now working to complete the upper level of the middle section of the house which will give us four bedrooms and a bathroom which can be used. We need about \$3,000 US dollars to complete the four rooms and bathroom. That will make the whole middle section usable.

We are so thankful to God for what He is doing. We are also thankful to God for You; our friends and partners who are praying for us and supporting the ministry financially. We can not do it without you. As we are coming up on our four year anniversary we are amazed at how the Lord has used Seek God Ministries to touch so many lives. Our budget and financial support has been much less than what many missionaries have to work with. However, we have been able to do much with the Lord's help and your help. We are more aware than ever that without Jesus we can do nothing but with Him all things are possible. Your obedience to the Lord is a vital part of what we are able to do. I believe the Lord has put us in a situation that is much bigger than us because He wants us to learn to trust Him more and also because he wants others to enter into the blessings of what we are doing.

Some of you may not know some of the ministries that we are doing with your help. Here is a summary:

1. Many continue to be blessed through the internet ministry at SeekGod.org. We have received many testimonies from around the world of lives being impacted through the articles there. In fact we have received over 250,000 responses at the Seek God web site; prayer requests, testimonies, and salvations.
2. We are working to establish the Fathers Glory Home – Transformation Center for homeless street children in The Philippines. The needs are great here and we can save lives with this home.
3. We have a Saturday program at our home and church in The Philippines called Kingdom Celebration. About 50 to 70 kids, youth, and some older people gather to worship and receive the Word of God. Afterward we feed the kids. Many of them are poor and do not get a good meal very often.
4. We do outreaches on the streets to feed street kids and sometimes we provide clothes and flip-flops which they call slippers here. Many times the kids are barefooted or they have flip-flops that are worn out with holes in them. This causes them to have wounds on their feet which we treat with antibacterial ointment. We encourage the kids in the Lord, pray with them and teach them to pray. We demonstrate God's love by caring for them. They really appreciate us and often ask to go with us. That is why we need the FGH so that we can have a place to bring the ones God is calling us to help. To really make a difference in their lives they need to be rescued from street life.
5. We are also helping some of the kids who we know to complete their education, at least through High School. Some of the kids here are very motivated to go to school and they are good students but their family lacks the income for transportation. For about \$5 US dollars per week, a dollar a day, we can help a student continue to attend school.
6. We partner with a church that meets at our place on Sundays. The congregation is poor. We help with the needs of the pastor and we also teach and preach in the church.
7. We also oversee and help support the pastors of three churches which are about five hours north of us in The Philippines.

Whatever we do as a partner you are a part of it. When we feed a hungry kid, you are feeding them. When we give clothes to a kid who is wearing rags you are clothing them. When we take in a homeless street kid you are helping us rescue them. This truly is an Isaiah 58 ministry and if you are helping us then the promises in Isaiah 58 are yours.

"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' "If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, If you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. (Isaiah 58:6-11 NKJV)

The rainy season has an affect on the people here who are trying to provide for their families. We live in an area that has many very poor families. Often times the job of a father will provide just enough income for that day's survival. When the rains are heavy many jobs can be affected as people are pinned down waiting for the rain to pass. Sometimes people are coming to us to ask for rice because their family has no food. They are more than willing to work for what they can receive. Sometimes when I look at the needs I am overwhelmed. However, the Lord has not called us to do it all, just obey Him for the one He puts in our path.



Above Sandi 21 years old

One of the people whose life has been touched by God through the ministry in The Philippines is Sandi, a 21 year old girl. Sandi's mother died giving birth to her. When she was just one week old her father left her. She never saw her dad again and does not know where he could be. Sandi's grandmother raised her. She grew up in great poverty as her grandmother struggled to help them survive by selling vegetables in the market. Sandi is good in crafts, sewing, and making things with her hands. Sometimes she makes things to sell to help provide for her and her grandmother. Sandi had always lived in the fear that if something happened to her grandmother she would be left without anyone to care for her.

About two years ago Sandi and her grandmother began coming to Kingdom Celebration, the youth and children's ministry we do on Saturdays. Sandi was touched by the presence of God and gave her life to Jesus. Sandi's fear has been replaced by God's peace that can only come from the Lord, even when things are difficult. Sandi has seen the Lord answer her prayers in many ways. We have watched Sandi grow and mature in the Lord, she loves the presence of God. She now helps us with Kingdom Celebration.

If you are helping us with the ministry you are an answer to some of Sandi's prayers. From an early age Sandi has been determined to make it in life. She always worked hard in school believing that was her hope for the future. Sandi did well in school and graduated from High School when she was 16 years old. She began going to college when she was 17 and she completed 1 year toward a degree in elementary education.

However, her grandmother had health problems and Sandi had to quit school and begin working to help support herself and her grandmother. When we learned about Sandi's situation we encouraged her to go back to college to complete her education and get the teaching degree. We told her we would help her as we were able. Sandi was able to get a scholarship because of her good grades. Last year we contributed about \$500 US dollars, \$250 for tuition and \$250 for misc

expenses and books. This year we did the same. Sandi is now halfway through her third year and will complete her degree next year. It is not our focus to help people complete college. However, we felt the Lord was calling us to help Sandi.

Recently there was a rumor at Sandi's college that the scholarships would not be available in the future. About 200 worried students gathered to talk about the situation because the tuition would be too expensive for most of them to continue their education. Sandi told them just to pray and trust God and she gave testimony to God's provision in her life. When one life is transformed they become a testimony and the Word of God is multiplied. This is one of our joys to witness in the ministry here. Thank You Partners. (*But the word of God grew and multiplied. Acts 12:2*)

How to give, go to www.seekgod.org/info/beapart.html

We need about \$2000 US dollars for monthly ministry support. In addition to that we need funds for FGH. In the last two months our support has been about \$700 US dollars per month.

We need more monthly support. If you feel the Lord calling you to help us do what we are doing then please obey. If you are not a part of this ministry please pray and ask the Lord what He would have you do. If you are helping us with prayers and financial giving we thank you. You are a vital part of everything we are able to do. With your help we will continue to seek and to save that which is lost. We want to see Jesus receive His full reward. Many of these kids are part of His reward.

We love you, and pray God's blessings on you and your family,

Gary, Suzzette, and Kids +++
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