



Seek God Ministries

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For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJV)

To all our Friends and Partners, a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

When I think about Christmas I think about the Gospel. The Gospel is described as the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Gospel of the Kingdom. Sometimes we forget that Jesus came to be King and that we are to rule and reign in His Kingdom. Jesus said that the Kingdom is within you. When you have the King living in you, you have the whole Kingdom. The Gospel is a continuous source of good news for every situation. I am convinced that we will spend eternity in awesome wonder forever learning new things about what was given to us at the cross.

A recent study said that Americans are stressed out, eighty percent report they "frequently" or "sometimes" experience daily stress. People are longing for peace. True peace is only found in Christ. With the birth of Jesus, the angels announced, "Peace on earth good will to men". Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world", (John 16:33). The Kingdom and government of God is being established, now, first in our hearts, and then in the world. *Of His government and peace there will be no end*; that is a happy thought. When the peace of God rules in your heart the Kingdom of God is being established.

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)

I want to share a Christmas experience with you that we had last year at Christmas time. A lady emailed the ministry and shared about how the Lord had used Seek God Ministries as part of a confirmation that her family was to adopt a child from The Philippines. I am not going to give the names of the family to protect their privacy and because the father is in the US Military, serving to protect the United States.

For all of you who have prayed for us and given financially to Seek God Ministries you are also an important part of this story. Below is the history as told by the adoptive mother. We received this letter from the mother in 2013.

I wanted to write to let you know that I believe God has a purpose for our family and SeekGod.org. Way back in August of 2007, I went on a short-term mission trip

to Sao Paolo, Brazil with Wes and Stacey Campbell and "Be a Hero Ministries." While ministering in a church one night, I heard the audible voice of God say to me, "I'm calling to you." Upon returning from my mission, I wanted to find out what I was being called for. So, I decided to fast and pray and seek God for the answer.

For 40 days, I fasted from the 3 things I loved the most (at that time), coffee, chocolate and television. Over those days, I kept seeking, but heard nothing. Then, on the 40th day, I received an email from "SeekGod.Org." I don't know how I received an email from you all, but I did. How ironic that I was seeking God, and received an email from "SeekGod.org." Well, I looked at your website, and also the one on street kids. Since then, I have always had it in my mind that God was calling me to the streets, perhaps to the Philippines. I have continued praying about it, and also praying for you and your ministry.

Well, recently, God renewed in my heart the idea of adoption. I've always wanted to adopt way back to when I was a little girl. I asked God to confirm to me that he wanted this. Well, the day after I prayed, our 3 children and I went to see a doctor to have our youngest evaluated for a procedure. We'd never met the doctor before. When he walked in, we introduced ourselves and he began scanning the room. He said, "So...where's your fourth one?" I immediately thought, "what is this guy talking about?" "I know I've only given birth to 3 children." When I didn't answer immediately, he must've thought I didn't hear him, so he asked the question again. I told him that we were thinking of adopting. That's when it dawned on me that God was answering my prayer though this stranger.

Then, I wondered what country we should go with. I prayed again, and when I woke up in the morning, God reminded me of the Philippines and SeekGod.org. And what happened after my fasting and praying in 2007. I knew he was again calling me to the Philippines.

It was then confirmed again, in a Supernatural way. My friend at church and her husband adopted 2 children through the Domestic Foster Care Program. I kept telling her I thought we might adopt from China. But, after I prayed again, and God reminded me of your website and the Philippines, I knew He was calling us to that country.

After that happened, I told my friend I knew which country God was calling us to. I said, the Philippines. When I told her, I literally saw "goose bumps" appear on her arms. She was so shocked, because she is a teller in a bank. She said that before I ever mentioned the Philippines, a man came in to do his banking. After talking to him, she learned that he runs an orphanage in the Philippines. She asked him if they have an adoption program since she knew we were thinking of adopting internationally. He told her that they do. Again, God was confirming to us what He wants. Adopt...from the Philippines.

I'm not sure exactly the depth of how we tie in to your ministry, but I do know that there has been a Supernatural connection since 2007. We will continue to pray for you all. Blessings to you and your family.

This was the first time we had heard about the adoption from the adoptive family. They had already begun the process to adopt a little girl who was in a Filipino orphanage. It turned out to be a long ordeal and required a lot of perseverance with government regulations and there were many

delays. They were told more than once they could come and pick up their daughter only to learn it was delayed at the last minute. Finally, they were able to confirm when they could get their new daughter and it was scheduled for December 26, 2016. When talking about the perseverance they had gone through I remember the mother saying, "love wins". The mother and two of her children would come to The Philippines to pick up the little girl. They requested that if possible, they would like to meet us.

It was kind of short notice and at first, we were not sure if we could make it. There was also a possible typhoon coming that we had to consider. But after praying, I felt the Lord was saying that we should go. We agreed to meet them on Christmas eve night and then spend Christmas day with them. We had a nice dinner on Christmas eve and got to know the family more. The mother once again shared her testimony about how Seek God Ministries was used by God to help speak to them to adopt from The Philippines. She said that God has a purpose for Seek God Ministries and that He is using you in ways that you do not even know.

Later, we learned that the reason they had received an email from SeekGod.org in 2007 was because the mother had submitted a prayer request in 2006 for her brother-in-law who had just been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He is cancer free! He works for an airport and is a part-time soccer coach. Thank You Jesus!



We took the family on a short outreach to the streets of Manila on Christmas day. It was a good experience for all of us as we blessed some poor kids there and gave out some small gifts. When the kids saw us, they came running.



The next day on December 26, 2016 they received the girl they adopted. A few days later we received this email from the mother...

Thank you for the prayers. I have been amazed all week with our new daughter. Her personality has been emerging more and more. The longer we have been with her, the more we realize they were wrong about her! She is SUPER smart, hilarious, talkative, and helpful. I also believe she has no hearing problems whatsoever. I will wait to confirm after her evaluations in the states, but I am very hopeful!! She is an absolute joy to be around.



We took her to the amusement park at the mall yesterday. We all enjoyed the rides, and just making new memories. We will keep you posted about our new life as a family.

Thanks again for the special Christmas you gave us. It's one we will never forget. We will always consider you family!

Then just recently we received this update from the mother...



She is doing great, such a loving thriving child. We are actually in process of adopting again. This time a little blind girl from China. We will bring her home this summer.

Thanks again for meeting us in Manila. I was so happy to share how you were a part of our adoption story. It also

made us feel loved by a wonderful Christian family.

You are all close to my heart. Blessings and love.

On Christmas day, while we were on the streets in Manila, the Lord reminded me that it was exactly twenty years before that I was there, on those same streets. In 1996 at Christmas time, I came there to do a short outreach in Manila to the poor. I gave out New Testaments, rice, canned fish and candy to the kids. At that time there were many homeless families living on the streets of Manila, in that area. Many of them only had cardboard or an old blanket to cover their makeshift shelter. There were also many street kids roaming around.

I had just met a girl from The Philippines who helped with the mission. That girl became my wife a year later. Now, we were back twenty years later in the same area with our three kids blessing the people. It seemed it was God's timing to remind us of the journey He has taken us on. Actually, the testimony from that experience twenty years before is why we were all there in the same place twenty years later. Wow! God had a plan and I did not have a clue where it would lead but it happened by just trying to listen to Him and obey His voice, step by step.

In 1996, while I was there I was overwhelmed by the presence of God in ways I had not experienced before. I could feel God's love for the people. For me it was intense, but I knew it was only a small sample of what God feels for us. When I asked the Lord what I was experiencing He said, *compassion*. I knew that it was not coming from me, I was experiencing God's compassion for the people.

One special memory from that time was when my future wife, her friend, and a taxi driver whom, I recruited to help us, were ministering in a park. There we met a boy that looked about nine years old. He was living on the streets without any family. We were able to rescue him and bring him to a children's home that I knew about. We bonded with him at that time. We were able maintain contact with him through the years. He is now grown up and has a good job working at a cell phone company in Manila. He still calls us mom and dad.

Christmas 1996, was life changing for me. It was the beginning of a journey to really know God in a deeper way. I have learned and experienced so much since then, but I keep coming back to wanting to experience more of God's love. What was first revealed to me as "compassion" I later understood as the "Father's love". Now, I know it as "Holy Love." God's love is a consuming fire that will make you one with Him, if you allow His gravity to pull you into Him. It is kind of like if you were pulled into the sun you would become part of the sun.

However, it is not as though you will cease to exist rather, you will experience greater life. In Christ, the more of your life you give Him the more of His life you experience. Love always cost you something. You must be willing to give up something from your life to experience more of God's love. This is the law of sowing and reaping. The price of love is life.

*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. (John 10:9-11 NKJV)*

The word for **more abundantly** means greater in measure and it also means **superior**. This is why Jesus came, to give us a life-upgrade. That is what Christmas is about. The greatest form of life is Holy Love, like our Father. There is a lot more I could say about this, but I don't want to make this too long. I am writing an article about it.

What causes a family in the United States to decide they want to adopt a child who, is a stranger from a third world country? Holy Love. Then, when they get that child and experience more of God's love they want more so they decide to adopt a little girl from China who is blind. Holy Love is both the motivation and the reward. Holy Love *not seek its own* it seeks to give so as to experience more Holy Love. It is pure love, joy and peace in the presence of our Father.

As I am just finishing this newsletter it is Christmas Eve morning, here in The Philippines. One of the poor kids we help just came to our gate. He was hungry and said that they do not have any food at their house. We fed him and while he was eating he asked Joshua if we were going to give him a Christmas gift. Joshua asked him, what do you want for Christmas, he said "a toy". They do not have any toys at their house. Joshua said have you asked Jesus to give you a toy for Christmas. He said yes and then he prayed to Jesus again for a toy. Joshua brought him in and showed him under the tree there was a present for him.



It was a toy car

Which, made him very happy

A big THANK YOU to all our friends and partners you are a vital part of everything we do

Merry Christmas from The Philippines and our Family



May you have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous new year that is filled with the peace and grace of God

*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)*

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.

<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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