



Seek God Ministries

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This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD. (Lamentations 3:21-26)

Dear Friends and Partners

We are in amazing times, sometimes things can seem so bad, but God shows himself strong and meets us with what we need, when we need. Thank you so much to those who gave financially in June and July you really helped us make it through those two months and we were able to help others in need also. In the first part of June the rainy season started, right on time, and it has been heavier than normal. We are in an area that receives monsoon rains, some years are more intense than others.

You may have heard that we had some big floods in The Philippines; Our region was a part of that. I know that a lot of things are happening around the world and the USA is dealing with extreme heat, fires, floods and other things also, so The Philippines may not be on the news. Also, if you heard about the explosion that killed 10 people, we are not near that area it is in the southern part of The Philippines where there are Islamic insurgents. Please continue to pray for The Philippines and especially the government here.



but mostly drizzling. We continue to get heavy rain at times, but we are getting some breaks in between now, thank you Lord.

In the picture above Joshua is checking out a swollen river that is about one block from where we live. We were not flooded but a lot of people near us were. As usual, the very poor, and the squatters who live along the river were the most affected.

Two weeks ago, many places were under water here. Our province was declared a calamity zone. Most of the cities were flooded. The biggest city near us had water up to the roofs, even in the downtown area. The mountains continue to drain into the rivers and creeks, which are higher than normal, but the people are mostly dry and recovered now. It has been raining today





Left, one of the families that is living along the river.



Right, a tricycle trying to travel on a flooded road.



When the weather is bad many people cannot work because a lot of jobs are outdoors. Also, sometimes they have to travel to a city that is about one hour away and we have had times when the roads were blocked because of flooding and landslides. We have to travel through part of a rain forest and there have been some very large trees that have fallen or slid down the hillsides because the soil is saturated. When people don't work there is no pay and many of the people here depend on daily work for daily survival.



Sometimes the weather has been bad for several days in a row. Kids go hungry more often this time of year. Sometimes we are getting hungry kids come to our place soaking wet from travelling through the rain, but they are hungry so they brave the weather.

Depending on the family situation, sometimes we give some relief of rice, eggs, and canned fish to help a family get through. This boy is from a Christian family that we help at times. The Dad works and provides the best he can but occasionally they run out of food. When we have testimony time this boy's testimonies usually involve how he prayed and the Lord provided food. A few times he has had to fight back tears as he describes how the Lord helped them. He seems to have a fear of going hungry, this is something that a lot of kids deal with here.

The ironic thing about this family is the father is actually the son of a black American who was stationed here when the USA had military bases in The Philippines. In other words, this boy has an American grandfather, and other family members, living in the USA. The problem is the grandfather was married to a woman in the USA and while he was here in The Philippines had an affair with a Filipino girl and their child was this boy's father. It is a complicated and probably a painful situation for everyone.

At one point a half-sister from the USA was able to track down her half-brother in The Philippines and they made contact by mail. This was requested by her Father who probably was feeling some regret and wondering about the son he left behind in The Philippines. I don't know why but the communication exchange was very short. We also tried to make contact with the family in the USA, but they did not respond. We know that God's plan is always redemption and a happy ending no matter what mistakes we have made in the past. I believe at some point there will be more contact between the families.

Because of the former bases in The Philippines there are a lot of Amerasian's here, most of them are second and third generation, now. A good thing about The Philippines, unlike Vietnam, being Amerasian is not a stigma here. The Philippines is really a melting pot for Asia and the West. There are not many native Filipinos remaining who are not mixed, so there is very little discrimination.



Above, Joshua teaching a recent Bible class.

Right, the same group with Shekinah also.



It seems that the big price increases here are not just about the value of the dollar but probably more because of recent increases of taxes that has made everything much more expensive. Of course, the poor get hit the hardest making the poverty worse.



Gas has more than doubled in the last three months, electricity has increased a lot at a time when the rates should be lower, during rainy season. Food also seems to be nearly double compared to what we were paying a few months ago. We have had to hold back on some needed maintenance just to cover the essentials in life.

Left, another recent Bible Study group of local kids.

I don't want to sound discouraged because I am not. I'm just letting you know what we are dealing with here. I am actually very optimistic because I see God working in so many ways and in so many lives, including our lives, and I am sure in yours also.

But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!" When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. "For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (Isaiah 43:1-3)



Above, the river near us at flood stage.

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.

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you from God, our Father
and Jesus our Lord.*

<p>You can also send a check by mail to this address in the USA:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seek God Ministries 4743 E 16th Ave 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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