



Seek God Ministries

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Ministry Update January 23, 2013

Dear friends and partners:

We pray that you have a great New Year in the presence of the Lord. May you walk in the Shalom–Peace of God, may your heart, home and family experience the love, joy, and peace of God through out this New Year.

We want to thank every one of you who helped us make 2012 a successful year of touching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God. It is always our goal to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to encourage those who are part of the body of Christ. We want to see Jesus receive His full reward.



Above, is a picture of some of the kids at Kingdom Celebration during our Christmas party. We had a wonderful Christmas party at Kingdom Celebration. The kids had a lot of fun and we were able to give gifts to all the kids. We gave small toys, hygiene items like tooth brush and tooth paste, and school items like pencils and notebooks. The kids were very thankful and left happy. Actually our KC kids were blessed to have more than one Christmas party in December because we also had one earlier in December when a missions organization visited Kingdom Celebration and also treated the kids to some small gifts. Many of the kids here are very poor so we are very happy to see them receive things they need.

In the last newsletter I mentioned a boy we have been helping for several months named David, not his real name. Last week David came into the Transformation Center late at night and stole two computers and a digital camera from us. We did not expect that he would do that. We thought that we were making progress with him and he always seemed to like being here. We also thought that because he was only nine years old

and so small we were intervening in his life before he developed the mindset of a real street kid. However, it seems that he has stolen from a neighbor's house also in the past and he has been in trouble with the police here a few times before this. There is probably more that we don't know about. I do not think that it was only his idea. It seems that he knew who to take the items to so he could sell them. I think he was encouraged to do it by an older person. At the same time two of our dogs became very sick and had convulsions, we had to put them down. We suspect poisoning because the dogs help guard the place by barking. We are concerned that we are a known target here.

Once again the police are warning us to tighten up security at the Transformation Center. They reminded us again about the many drug addicts and criminals in this area. So, again we are focusing on security. David knew all about the Transformation Center buildings because while it was abandoned the caretakers allowed him to come here and explore; this was before we purchased the place. David told us about all the ways to get in, what has us concerned is who else has he told. We are trying to secure the place the best we can with the resources we have.

We need to replace the computers and camera somehow. But beyond the loss and sense of violation is our concern for David. I don't think he can really grasp how this is going to change his life because he has gotten by with so many things before. We can not have him come here anymore because we obviously can not trust him at all. The fact that he is sharing information about us with criminals in the area is another reason we can not have him here. We are working with the police and DSWD, the people who handle juveniles in The Philippines. At this point David needs to go into a very structured program and hopefully get the help he needs. We are not able to handle a kid like him, but we tried. This has been a very sad experience for our family because we opened our hearts to him and we still care about him; we are praying for him.

Our 13 year old son, Joshua made the observation that it is better not to open your heart to people so you don't get hurt. I said it is true that when you choose to love you open your heart and you can get hurt. However, the alternative is to let satan win. Everything satan does is with the goal of keeping us from loving someone; he is always trying to setup ways for us to be offended at each other. Look how the enemy works in marriages, families, churches, and nations always trying to get people to be offended at each other which brings division and stops the flow of love. When love stops satan wins because agape love is the presence of God. When love moves out bad feelings move in.

If satan can get us to be offended, which is unforgiveness, then he can bring in pride, fear, depression and despair to try and destroy us. This was a good lesson for us and our kids because they all had fear the next night from things the police said and from feeling betrayed by David. I told them you need to pray for David and as you allow God's compassion to come into your heart fear will leave. It did. *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. (1 John 4:18 NKJV)*

When Jesus was talking about the signs of the end of the age He said, *"And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another", (Matthew 24:10 NKJV)*. Jesus went on to say, *"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved", (Matthew 24:12-13 NKJV)*. Part of the shaking that is happening is to help us learn how to keep our love flowing and not be offended. Could it be that this is the reason so many things are happening that are so offensive to Christians, including the elections of some political leaders?

Is God allowing us to practice not being offended so that we can shine with His glory in the darkest of times? What is our response supposed to be to people who seem to be our enemies? *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (Matthew 5:44-45 NKJV)*

It seems that we are really in a time when we need to stay focused on the face of Jesus, when we look any where else we see despair. However, we have God's promise that as the darkness increases so will the light of His glory increase in His people. *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. (2 Corinthians 4:6-7)* Remember His strength is perfected in our weakness. Trust Jesus and rest in Him.

In the light of the King's face is life, And His favor is like a cloud of the latter rain. (Proverbs 16:15)

Another important thing to consider in making decisions is learning to discern the will of God, hearing and obeying His voice. *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17)* **Keep eternity in mind when making decisions.**

Please pray for David and pray for us also. We will continue to pray for you.

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.
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 five 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 farm lot behind the Transformation Center to grow fruits and vegetables for the ministry, feed the poor, and for possible income.
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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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. (2nd Cor. 9:9-12)

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