



Seek God Ministries

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Ministry Update September 5, 2013

I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. (Luke 15:7 NKJV)

Dear friends and partners:

In our last newsletter I mentioned that we were getting some heavy monsoon rains which were causing widespread flooding in our region. As I am writing this the sky is getting darker and I hear thunder in the distance. However, we are now back to a more mild rainy season again which, has given the many flood victims a chance to recover. The heavy rains reminded us again of the work that needs to be done on the Transformation Center. The steel roof needs to be sealed, when the rains are heavy we are getting some water damage. We are working on it as we can, when we have the resources.

At Kingdom Celebration we saw the affects of the heavy rains on the kids who live on the edge, the ones who are very poor and often go hungry. Many people in that place live day to day and when there is no work because of heavy rain and flooding they have no way to make any income and no way to get food. Several of the kids looked like they had very little to eat recently. We always feed all the kids every Saturday after Kingdom Celebration but for some who are the most in need we also feed them breakfast and often dinner on Saturday also. When we are in that location during the week we feed the kids who come to us and let us know they are hungry because there is no food at their house. When we are able to do so we will send them home with some rice and canned fish for the rest of the family also.

Two of the kids who often go hungry are Mico and MacJay. We have been helping them and their siblings since we came to The Philippines. We know their situation. I cannot say too much except that they do not have an easy life. They are small for their ages because of a lack of nutrition.



On the left is Mico 7 and MacJay 9 is on the right

The younger one, Mico is a very humble kid who tries to be helpful whenever he can. He does not cause any trouble. MacJay the older one is not the same. Because of all the things he has suffered he will sometimes act out some of those behaviors toward others. For instance one of the things he has suffered is verbal abuse. He can also be verbally abusive and speak some really mean things to other kids. Some of his other bad behaviors I can not mention. When we bring them to the Transformation Center the brothers try to be on their best behavior because it is a treat for them to come there. However, after a few days MacJay will begin to act out saying some bad words or will not cooperate in helping.

When MacJay goes back to his life situation he realizes his mistakes and begins to say he is sorry and wants another chance promising that next time he will be good. I have explained that believing in Jesus and what He did on the cross is what makes you good. We have prayed with him many times. When I talk to him about God he listens but there seems to be some stronghold keeping him from fully accepting. However, we have seen this before and we do not give up. For kids that have had a very difficult life and have been hurt by the people they are supposed to trust it is more difficult to believe that God is good and that He really loves them. At some point the seeds we plant will begin to grow in him and the light will come on. I have compassion for him even though he is hard to deal with sometimes. They are basically growing up without any parental guidance, except for our input. They look to us as a stable and trustworthy influence in their lives. They have a fear that we may go back to the USA and leave them. When they express that fear we try to reassure them that we are not planning to do that.

Another boy who has been very difficult to deal with some times is Junior, not his real name. He just turned 16 years old but he is also small for his age because of malnutrition. He often goes hungry. We have known him for several years also. There have been some times in the past when I was tempted to kick him out of Kingdom Celebration and all the other kids wanted me to. I did make him stay outside the gate a couple times for awhile to help him realize his behavior was unacceptable. Again, I can not mention some of his really bad behaviors but one of the things has been that he was also verbally abusive to other kids, sometimes extremely. It is because of what he has suffered. He seems to have an attention deficit disorder and during the worship would often be bothering other kids and does not really enter into worship. Because we know how bad his life is we have been patient with him. I have had many talks with Junior and reached out to him with loving kindness many times but he also knows we are firm about trying to protect the other kids.

Now, it seems we may be seeing a breakthrough with Junior. I am careful about saying that because there have been times before when I thought he had changed only to see him get worse for a time. Sometimes with kids like this it is a two steps forward and one step back process. We have brought Junior to the Transformation Center before and we have seen some good improvements before. However, this time seems different we brought him to the Transformation Center last week and he was actually a good kid and he seems to have the peace of God in him.

On the left is Junior at Kingdom Celebration on the right is Junior at the Transformation Center 2 days later



Junior spent a few days at the Transformation Center and it was the best time we have had with him. I was touched by seeing the grace of God at work in him and I have a new appreciation for Junior. We do not have the funds to take in kids to the Transformation Center long term so we do the best we can and we bring the kids who are most in need for short periods of restoration, like a few days or a week. It is really amazing to see how a kid can change in a few days. We give them love, extra food, and vitamins. God does the work. It is amazing to see how a kids countenance and even his features begin to change as they are restored and given the things they need. They will usually sleep a lot for the first couple of days, partly because they feel safe here and partly because their body is healing. If they are here long enough they will go into a growth spurt and can even catch up to normal size for their age.

Junior's attention span has always seemed to be short but I have noticed times when he was intrigued with something and he would stay sitting and working on it for over an hour. When we brought a Monopoly game for the kids to play with he would play all the time, even by himself if no one else would play. The more I get to know him the more I am realizing that he is actually very smart. He seems to have a mind that organizes things and he seems to learn fast. He has good handwriting and while he was here he was creating things with the paint program on the computer for a couple of hours as he learned how to do things. I am not sure what talents he may have but it is possible that if he was in the US maybe he would be in program for gifted kids the kind where they do a lot of hands on learning. That seems to be how he learns. Anyway, after all that we have been through with him I am really thanking God for his new attitude. We will continue to help him more and look for ways we can help him develop some skills for his future.

August was a challenging month for us. We received below our survival level of support and had bills that were unpaid including the electric bill for the Transformation Center. In July we had a shortfall and I sent a newsletter a few people responded and by the end of the month we had recovered and met all our expenses. In fact the extra from July helped us survive August. In August I sent a news letter and only a couple people responded which we were thankful for because it kept us going for another week. However, by the last week of August we had very little money left, a quarter tank of gas, no money for the electric bill and the hardware bill. We charged hardware supplies to repair and prevent more water damage. We also did not have the money to do Kingdom Celebration on Saturday. I decided we will just wait on God and if no money comes in we will not have a choice but to cancel Kingdom Celebration. On Thursday some money came in and it was enough to pay the electric bill and do Kingdom Celebration. We are still past due on the hardware bill.

At the same time we had extra expenses in August because of the heavy rains. We had to get some things to stop leaks and fix rain gutters from the hardware store. We also wanted to give out food to the suffering people around us who were flooded or who did not have food because of the heavy rain; but we were very limited on what we could do financially, we tried to help the people at Kingdom Celebration the best we could. I also mentioned in the last newsletter that our son broke his arm in August. Another thing was that we had a prowler inside our fence apparently trying to break into the Transformation Center. He wore a bandana over his face and was hiding in some bushes at night. Our dog was barking and alerted us. The police again warned us that we need more security lighting and we are doing some other things to improve security.

Another thing that happened was I ran over one of our cats about a week ago when I was backing out of the driveway. The kids all prayed for the cat right when it happened. It is really amazing but the cat is alive and seems to be recovering he can walk and eat, but is sleeping a lot. So, we have a cat in recovery also at the Transformation Center. We have cats because we are near rice fields and they keep the rat population down. That is kind of how August was, challenges but also God showing Himself strong in amazing ways. Thank you to all who are standing with us. We love you and pray God's blessings on you and your family.

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)

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. 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 if we are not able to obtain the lot because the Transformation Center would be surrounded on four sides and it will limit what we can do at the Transformation Center.
4. Funds for remodeling the Transformation Center we possibly need \$70,000 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, Suzzhette, and Kids

This is our mail address for donations in the USA... Seek God Ministries 1165 W Ironwood Dr Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-2604 USA	In the Philippines you can send donations in Pesos to: Seek God Ministries PO Box 140 Subic Bay Freeport Zone Philippines 2222
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