

The Gormleys

Your Missionaries to the Philippines August 2019



Dear Pastor and Church Family,

To most people, the life of a missionary is mysterious and almost fairy-talelike. It is a distant connection to people who seem so unique, somehow living a spiritually super natural life, in a land where everything is different, scary, exciting. To the missionary, life is just...life! Minus a few comforts, closeness of family, and the complications of life in their homeland, life is very similar to our family and friends' back home. We sleep at night and work all day, try to raise our kids the best we can for God's glory, we laugh and love and cry and hurt, we have financial ups and downs; and shockingly, we don't always feel very spiritual.

This month's letter was set to be filled with the struggles, financial problems and downright crisis-level situations we encountered the last couple of months. How can we possibly dwell on any of that when God has been so good to us? Why should we question His sovereignty about people and problems brought into our lives and ministry? Can we question His ability to answer our financial need after all He has done for and through us over the years? We cannot! He KNOWS our weaknesses. He KNOWS what we have in our bank account and how much we need this month. He KNOWS just what we need to grow and mature in our faith as leaders. He KNOWS how to test us to make us stronger. And we can rest assured KNOWING that He is working all things for the best in our lives and ministry. He is a Good Father!

This is how good God our Father is to us:

The Beauty of a New Church: We have seen new people worship with us every week for the first 6 weeks of services. 15 precious professions of faith, and we reached a high attendance of 42 adults and 28 children last week. The potential for this new church is exciting and has given us a renewed vigor in our church planting efforts. There is nothing quite as sweet as watching new believers explore and discover their new life in Christ. He is a good Father!



The Wonder of Providing an Education: Aside from opening the door to our own Bahay Sibol kids' future through education, this ministry has led to a great evangelistic opportunity. This week we will start 2 separate ALS (alternative learning system) programs for out of school youth as well as adults who have never finished their education. We willingly accepted the request of the Department of Education to be an ALS host and we look forward to introducing the gospel and discipling every student that walks through our doors. He is a good Father to those around us!

The Blessings of a full and working quiver: Not many missionary families have the privilege of working together with their adult children in starting a new church and pursuing ministry on the field. How blessed we are that all of our adult girls are still with us on the journey. Kayla has lovingly taken on the role of discipleship and follow up for those who have accepted Christ. Courtney prepares and works through all of the music for each service. Kassie and Chloe are in charge of the children's ministry; both with Saturday Bible Clubs and teaching on Sundays. They make song sheets, prepare bulletins, visit families, act as welcome committee, and the list goes on. So, thankful for these girls and for God allowing them following their dreams and vocation right here in the Philippines while serving together with us. He's a good Father!

The Realization of God Provisions: God's goodness to us over the years has amazed us time and time again. Our faith in Him has been strengthened through financial struggles and we have praised Him through financial victories. He has never left us empty, in need or destitute, and rarely have we ever worried or wondered how God would meet our needs. It hasn't always been how or when we wanted, but it has always been just enough-right on time! He is such a good Father to us!

The Joy of Changed lives and finding Hope in Christ: BAHAY SIBOL - Let's be honest, this is a costly ministry. No other ministry has needed so much of our emotions, physical and spiritual strength, family time, finances, patience, mercy, discipline, and the list goes on. Let's be honest! the return on investment of this ministry is unequivocally like no other. Bruises have healed and healthy bodies restored, eyes once dead and lost now have a twinkle of joy, hearts so hard and bitter at first now have softened, and children who once were full of fear can now be held and hugged and loved without reservation. Happy laughter has replaced tears of sadness, reading books and learning to write are now part of life, and eating a healthy meal together



with a family is now normal. The sacrifices made can never begin to compare to these lives that have been forever changed because of Christ's love through Bahay Sibol. He is such a Good Father!