

The Gormleys

Your Missionaries to the Philippines May 2020



Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

Sure, it was all fun and games at first. All four of our adult girls came home from Manila; there is nothing better than having all of your kids home, safe and sound. Living on the property at the orphanage, we set to work making plans of how to keep 30 kids happy, occupied, healthy and fed. Baseball, volleyball, giant beach ball, water balloons, cooking lessons, camping out, built a nipa hut, science experiments, academics, movies, we did it all. Truly, it has been fun working together with the staff to see so much accomplished on the property, in the hearts of the kids and especially with their academics. Our family of 9 being all together, every day, has brought a new kind of bond and love with deeper understanding and joy. We have grown and blossomed in so many ways and we are thankful. But ... 66 days later, we long for the days of taking walks, going out to eat, grocery shopping as a family, visiting friends, attending church and fellowship, sending the kids to school.... Lord, how long? (Isaiah 6:12)

“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.” Proverbs 1:27 This verse is probably more true for everyone of us today than it has ever been before. Who knew, 66 long days ago, that we would be confined to our homes for so long? Who would have imagined that churches, all over the world, would go from having auditoriums full of people to pastors preaching in front of a camera to empty pews? Who would have thought that schools would be shut down and we would all suddenly become homeschool parents? Who knew? Who could have known? We didn't know. You didn't. No one knew. And let's be honest, we weren't prepared for it.

But God knew! and thanks be to the Lord that He was prepared. “The day is thine, the night also is thine: though hast prepared the light and the sun.”

God prepared the property at Bahay Sibol to provide supplies we never imagined would be so needed in such a time as this. God prepared a rice field, a barn for pigs, mango and other fruit trees galore. God prepared, way ahead of time, the ground for planting a good crop of vegetables. God prepared for Bahay Sibol to be build on the most beautiful piece of land with wide open space where 30 children could easily run and play and stay healthy, even during a pandemic. God prepared an amazing group of workers that would willingly stay on with us throughout the quarantine. God prepared a fellow missionary that would need to exchange dollar checks for money, if this would not have happened, we would have been left without the needed cash flow to meet our needs. God prepared a church to be started last June, allowing us to gather each Sunday with our family, the staff and all the Bahay Sibol kids to worship the one knows everything and is always prepared. Just last night we were surprised with the earliest and heaviest storm we can remember in a long time. We lost a few fruit and vegetables, have a lot of clean up to do, but we are thankful for last weeks harvest of rice. God knew about the storm and prepared the harvest to beat this storm. Thank God that He knows and He is always prepared.

This time has not been without its discouragement, though. We are thankful for a few souls saved through a funeral for a baby we have been helping since October. Other than that, there have been no new attenders or members at the church, very little outreach ministry has been possible, aside from the regular care of the children. We are thankful for Bible studies with the staff, which have been a great blessing and productive. Please pray for a couple of staff members who still may need to be saved. We are working to ground them in the truths of the word while building relationships of genuine love and care. Our main ministry over this time has been building into a new foundation for the kids, the staff and the home.

Yesterday, our president extended the quarantine another 2 weeks. We can't say that we are happy about that, but we are certainly not shaken by it. Our God knows and He is prepared and through it all, He is leading us toward something even more amazing than what He has already done; even more than we could imagine.

Please continue to pray for our family, for Hope Baptist Church, Bahay Sibol and all that is connected with us here. Your love and commitment to support our ministry is greatly appreciated and it is the encouragement that keeps us pushing forward, even in these times of extreme confusion and difficulty. We will keep edifying disciples, preparing young lives for the Master's greater plans, and endeavoring to add fruit to your account for the glory of our LORD Jesus Christ. May we be found faithful as we usher His Second Coming.

In the Service of the King,

Bro. Gormley and Family