



*“For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again,  
and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.”*

*Job 14:7*

July 24, 2021

Dear Friends!

Greetings from a very wet and stormy Philippines! Rainy season has arrived and in full force. We have had continuous rain just about every, all day for the last two weeks and there doesn't seem to be any let up soon. But such is life in the tropics, we take the good with bad. Together with rainy season, we have also begun a new school year at Hope Education. With one week being fully accomplished, we can confidently say that we have had a good start and look forward to great things for this year. We are thankful for Calvary Christian Academy allowing our children to study under their direction. Our children have made excellent progress and those who were so far behind in the grade levels when they arrived have almost all completely caught up to their grade and age levels. We are very proud of their achievements and forever grateful to everyone who has contributed their time, effort and finances in order to see these accomplishments.

The Philippines is still under heavy restrictions because of the COVID crisis and most recently, we have returned and gone backward again to where the children are not allowed to leave our premises. We had a short reprieve wherein children 5 years and older were allowed to be outside at parks and outdoor areas. We are thankful for the one day of swimming, several walks, and bike rides that we were able to squeeze in before they once again restricted children from being outside. Many other restrictions on travel, going out, wearing of masks and face shields, and other quarantine measures are still intact. We have been under these conditions for more than 1 year and 5 months. While we are thankful for our large area of land, provisions that God continuously provides and a very patient, creative staff, it is certainly beginning to take a toll on everyone. Our prayer is that God will soon allow our children to go back to school, back to church and back to a healthy and happy life.

By way of update and a means to enumerate our current, specific prayer requests, we would like to tell you about the following situations and needs at Bahay Sibol:

1. **Processing of adoptions and reunifications:** Please be in prayer for Joshua, Zia and Keisha (siblings) and Angela. They are all currently waiting for matching for international adoption. Also for Jack, who is waiting for matching for a local adoption. And Yuan, who will soon be placed to live with his Aunt and Uncle.
2. **Bible Studies/Monitoring/Mentoring:** Please pray for us as we maintain contact with children who are placed in homes or reunited with family as we continue to be a part of their lives and monitor their progress through school, Bible students, phone calls, video time and other visits. We want to maintain and build upon the relationships that we have spent years cultivating. We are thankful that we are able and allowed to offer continued guidance and support to the families as we enjoy watching the kids grow. Having a relationship with their new families has been a great blessing.
3. **Older Siblings groups:** We have come to a sad realization over the last year that not all kids will be adopted, neither will they be united with a stable family. Some of them will grow to adulthood, under our care and as a permanent part of our family. In these cases, we must implement new strategies and programs that we hope will prepare these kids in particular for what their life will be. Some will be reunited with parents who are recently released from jail or from the hospital or who have been able to slowly bring themselves to a new point of survival. In any case, these kids do not have an easy road ahead of them. That is why, it is our goal and determination to help them in every way possible with a college education, skills development for work and grounding them in positive relationship management, all by God's grace and wisdom.
4. **Finances:** While our needed, monthly financial support has increased, we are still in need of a higher, steady income in order to meet the basic needs each month. We are thankful for those who support us personally and that, together with Calvary Baptist Church, we are able to supplement the donations currently being received. In addition to regular needs, there are many big and small maintenance issues that we need to address, especially during this rainy season. Please pray that God would allow our monthly income by at least \$2000 before the end of the year.
5. **Fundraising Trip:** Michelle will be spending some time in the States in the next few months (Septmeber - October) with family and to represent Bahay Sibol. The goal is to raise needed support, as well as present a couple of big projects that we would like to tackle in the next year or two. Fundraising is not easy and it isn't the best part of the job, but it is desperately necessary in order to maintain, grow and provide what each and every child needs and deserves from a home and family. If you know of a church, organization, business, family or individual that might be interested in hearing more about Bahay Sibol and how to partner with us, making an investment in the future of our kids, please send us a message.

As always, thank you so much for your partnership in finances, encouragement and prayer support, it is because of you that we are able to carry on in caring for, loving, and providing for the needs of these kids. Your labor is not in vain, but the blessings will be returned to you abundantly and overflowing.

Thank you!

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