



*“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

May 2022

Summer greetings from the Gormleys, the Staff, and all of the Kids of Bahay Sibol!

Upon reviewing all that has happened and changed since our last update in January 2022, I am painfully reminded of the old saying, “Hurry up and wait!”. We started the year out strong with high hopes and big plans for all that would be accomplished, and while it has been a very productive and extremely enjoyable few months, there are several areas of our work that have suffered delays. As is all too common here, we experienced excessive red tape; delays in government agencies and severe delays in building projects. Along with these types of situations, there came times of great frustration and sadness, however, we are not discouraged, but rather, even more determined to push forward in all of our goals for 2022.

One example of this situation is that the 5 younger children we had expected to be placed for adoption since our last letter are all still with us. Their cases are still in process and they will likely be placed with families soon, however, there have been long, unexpected and, quite frankly, frustrating delays. Another would be the Administration building, which we had hoped to be done with by March, and yet, it is not complete. We do believe however that we will be able to move in to it by the end of June. As we learn to adjust to, learn from, and improve in any areas that would cause such frustrating delays in projects, processing and daily life, we are able to put new policies and strategies in place. We are learning how to work ahead of the system and prepare for situations that may cause delays. We covet your prayers that God would continue to grow our knowledge and wisdom in all areas of managing all aspects of the children’s home.

Beyond all of that, we are especially excited to announce the arrival of our newest child; the first child that has been brought to Bahay Sibol in more than a year. It is a bitter-sweet excitement since it would indicate that a child has suffered trauma and been deprived of her family. However, we do look forward to the prospect of providing all of the love, care, and nurture that this baby girl deserves, until such time that she is placed with a family of her own. The good news is that we have learned and experienced enough over the last 6 years that should allow us to be able to process all of the requirements that will allow her to be matched with a family long before she turns one year old, and in fact, it is our goal for her to be with a family before she turns 6 months old. Please be praying that we will be able to meet this goal for the very best interest of Avril.

Our day to day activities and living here at Bahay Sibol have been running smoothly with all of our financial, educational, and physical needs being met. The children have just finished their school year with great success and all four of our over-aged students are now officially enrolled for next school year in the grade level that most reflects their actual age. We are thankful for the great staff that God has sent us and how committed they are, not only to their JOB, but going the extra mile in caring for these kids in ways that are molding them and guiding them to be the best that they can be as they strive for great things in their future.

We want to express our most sincere appreciation for those who have supported Bahay Sibol financially. We are currently financially stable and monthly donations had been increasing. Even though last month’s donations were a bit lower, we are thankful that we have enough saved in order to meet the needs and still proceed with our current projects. We are thankful for those of you who continue to give on a regular monthly basis and we look forward to gaining even more regular supports in order to ensure the continuity of all programs and services that we provide to the children who live with us.

Thank you!

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