

the Gormleys

MISSIONARIES TO THE PHILIPPINES

APRIL 2024

Dear Pastor and Church Family,

We opened our January prayer letter teasing about the cold winter months you were experiencing. This morning, upon checking our weather for today, our high temperature will be 98 with the heat index making it feel like 108, and 48% humidity. Pray for us. 🥵



Schools were actually closed for several days over the last couple of weeks because of the extreme heat. While the heat is not unusual, the students are not used to being in school during these hottest of summer months. One of the long-lasting effects of the pandemic is such that the school calendar has not yet been regulated. Please pray that we will be able to return to the previous calendar in order to avoid interruptions to our school year and attendance during these difficult days of heat.

Hope Baptist Church: The church is thriving. The last few months have been full of active participation and desire to serve from our members, and those who have been attending with us. This excitement and desire to serve as one body in Christ led to a beautiful morning of worship together on Easter morning. After an early morning gathering of the church family for breakfast, there were family pictures and fellowship. The sweetness of the spirit within our body was truly an encouragement and core memory for our young church. The service was a sort of staggered cantata, with the story of our Savior's resurrection being presented with a combination of songs mixed in with the sermon. The victorious story of our salvation was clearly presented and warmly accepted by more than 100 people that were in attendance: our highest attendance to date. There was no better way to end such a great day than with 8 baptisms. Praise the Lord for His resurrection and the joy it enables us to have in this life and the hope we have for the eternal life to come.

Bible Institute Reboot: During the first 20 years of our ministry here in the Philippines, the Bible Institute was an integral part of our work. From it, men were called into the ministry and trained for the work of building His kingdom; we were blessed to see 14 new works established. For the last several years, we have not been able to see the Bible institute functioning, as people were still recovering and reestablishing their lives and finances, following the pandemic. In recent months, we have seen a surge in interest for the Institute to be up and running again. This interest is not only from those who have been called to the ministry, but lay people,, as well that desire to study and learn more. Together with Pastor Edgar Robes, we have been planning and preparing for this and we look forward to rebooting the Bible Institute this July, 2024. Please pray for more men and women with a desire to learn and hearts willing to be called to His ministry.

Cottage Prayer Meetings: In lieu of Wednesday night services, we have been visiting the home of one family each week. This practice is meant to establish a relationship with each family, lead them in principles for guiding their family and to meet their individual needs in practical ways, in a one-on-one fashion. This has been our strategy for many, many years now and the fruit that it produces is undeniable. In addition to the other benefits of these meetings, we have seen 12 souls in the last couple of months.

Bible Studies: We were able to establish a weekly Bible study at the hardware store of a new member, wherein all of the employees attend. It is our hope and prayer to get their families involved as well, and eventually, bring them into the church. As well, this week, we are starting a new Bible study about 50 miles north of us in yet another hardware store; this will be managed by one of our Bible Institute students who lives in the area. Please pray that there would be fruit from these gatherings, with people being reached with the gospel story.

Adoption Updates: We successfully completed the FINAL final hearing for the adoption of the boys. Now, we wait for the judgement and paperwork from the courts that will allow us to file for VISA's for them. As you know, Joy is a kinship adoption, and as such, travel documents are not a problem. It is our hope and prayer to possibly be home for Christmas this December 2024, followed by a short furlough. Please pray to this end.

As always, thank you, sincerely and from the depths of our hearts for your consistent love and care to our family and ministry over these many, many years. We look forward to many more years of partnership with you in reaching the lost, hurting, and the wounded with the love of Jesus Christ.

Carl and Michelle Gormley