

Howdy from the Philippines,

I hope this letter finds you well. It's been a few months since I've written, so I wanted to let you all know what's been going on with my family and our work here in Cebu. Our family has been doing well. While there have been times when some of us have been sick, for the most part, we are well. The kids won't stop growing. I know that's kind of how it works. They are growing so fast that I want them to stop for a few years so it won't pass by so fast. They are doing well in school. All three of them have consistently been at the top of their class. I have no complaints in that department. However, the two-year lockdown because of Covid did no favors for my kids, their social life, or their ability to associate with others. Not being able to socialize with other kids their age has made them more reclusive and shy. We are working on that. I think many kids are in similar situations for the same reason. They were practically locked up in their homes for the whole time when they should have been out playing with the neighborhood kids or schoolmates.



Being a missionary kid exposed me to the Bible at a young age. Sunday school taught me many things about the Bible, not to mention the lessons my parents tried to teach me throughout the years. I didn't apply myself to study the Bible until I was around 13. I became a Christian at the age of 14.

While it was difficult, I had many older people in the faith to help guide me along the way. Sean is now at the age I was when I applied myself to my studies. I have been studying with him and his cousin Andrew over the past month, which I think is going well. One of our Japanese students at my dad's English school is also part of the same class. Please be praying for them and their journey. Also, please keep one of my other students (Luella) in your prayers. Soon, she will be traveling abroad and separated from her family for an extended time.



I was given the opportunity to speak in Balamban Church of Christ (located in the Western part of Cebu), where the Bible Study Center have been helping provide Bible materials in their field missions.

The efforts in the mountains are going well. We hold a church service every Sunday for the recent converts. Saturday classes for the kids are also still going on regularly. My brother-in-law Gabriel has Bible class with many folks who live in the area during the week. It's still difficult to travel there and back. I discussed it with my wife, and we are planning to purchase a motorcycle we can utilize to make the trip there and back easily since a car can't make it due to bad roads.



Even on a stormy day in the mountains, the kids are still excited to attend the Saturday Bible Class.



These roads coming down from the mountains get rougher especially on rainy days

On a positive note, my brother-in-law, Gabriel Puzon, has been studying with the people living there for a while now. Recently there have been a couple of baptisms as a result. If you remember one of our previous reports, I mentioned that one of the older gentlemen, Tatay Maning, who lives up in the mountains became a Christian in February. With his encouragement, his wife, Nanay Ofelia, began studying with Gabriel. She was immersed back in August. They both have become involved in the work going on there. (Nanay and Tatay are Filipino words which literally mean mother and father respectively. However, they are often used by younger people as a term of respect for people who are old enough to be your parents.)



We also had one of our students at the BSC become a Christian. There is a young lady named Rina who was a co-worker of one of our members of the church who began studying with us a couple of months ago and recently decided to devote herself to God and join the family.



In other news, I turned 40. I don't know what the Lord has planned for me in the future. The last 40 years have been full of ups and downs. Only he knows what the next 40 will hold. However, I plan on living as long as he allows me to and making the best of every situation I find myself in. I am grateful to the Lord that he has graced me with a wonderful family and an opportunity to work with the people here in Cebu for as long as he has. It's truly amazing to have wonderful people like you on our team. We are truly blessed and grateful to you for all you do. May the Lord bless you and yours in everything you endeavor to do for years to come.

In Him,

Jon, Gina, Sean, Jasmin and Liam Murrell



"For this is the love for God, that we might keep his commands, and his commands are not difficult." - I John 5:3