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**Murrell Missionary Report #35 from Cebu City, Philippines / January 2023**

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**Jon Murrell** <jmurrell\_82@yahoo.com>  
To: Dan Huber <dmhuber78009@gmail.com>

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Howdy and Happy New Year!

I hope this finds you well. My family and I are doing great. Everyone is healthy and staying busy. As 2023 rolls in, I take some time to look at the events of this last year. Many things have happened, especially in recent months. We are currently coming back from a short break for the holidays. Usually, when the year comes to a close, we take that opportunity to take a few weeks to ourselves to unwind and spend some time with the family. My wife and I spent a few days at the beach with the kids. They enjoyed playing in the sand and swimming in the ocean. We have had very few opportunities to get out of the house lately, so it was a welcome opportunity to relax.



Things at the Bible Study Center have started to pick up again despite having a close call in December. One Sunday morning, as we prepared for the Church assembly, the building next door caught fire and burned to the ground. Because of the quick response of the fire department, they quickly got the fire under control. It took them about an hour and a half to put it out completely. Our building sustained minimal damage because of how near the fire was. However, it could have been much worse. We all evacuated the building safely. No one was hurt, but seeing how things played out and how fast the fire spread, I think someone up there was watching over us.



Our efforts in the Mountains have been busy of late. We recently had an end-of-the-year party for the children who attend our classes. There were over 100 kids who showed up to the event. We had games, food, and even presents for all of them. There were even special prizes for those who consistently attended classes over the last year. The kids had a wonderful time and are looking forward to Bible classes resuming in a week or two







The congregation in the mountain is growing. While not everyone who attends the Sunday gathering is a member of the church yet, the majority of them are studying with us and are parents of the kids who join our Kid's Bible Class each week. We held an end-of-the-year party for them, and everyone exchanged gifts, ate together, and enjoyed themselves despite the heavy rain outside. The weather of late has been very wet due to the rainy season. The mud makes it a challenge to travel to and from the mountain. Despite the weather issues, classes have resumed with the parents. Please keep our efforts in the congregation there in your prayers as well.





As I said earlier, things are starting to pick up again. Classes at the Bible Study Center have started again. Some of our current students have yet to return for various reasons, like being out of town or traveling. One of my students moved to another country for work. I am still in touch with her, and we are working out a schedule for her to continue her studies. We recently had a team meeting where we developed a plan to reach out to the community to get more students this year. We ask for your prayers for our current students and their continued studies. We also ask for prayers for the people we reach out to that they will have open hearts and minds and consider studying God's word.

I know your probably wondering when my family and I will be returning to the USA for a visit. Because of circumstances out of our control, we are aiming for July of 2023 and will, Lord willing, bring the whole family with us. Because of the Covid lockdowns many of the government offices were closed. When Covid lockdowns were over, a large number of people across the country made appointments for various things like renewing passports and visas. Due to the sheer number of people, we are forced to wait for months sometimes over a year for our appointment date so we can process their paperwork. The issues this time is renewing Jasmin's visa, as well as Sean's passport before we can leave. Not to mention the kids school schedules. Please be praying for this, that everything will be worked out without problems, and we can finally come for a visit.

My family and I would like to once again thank you for all the prayers and support you give us. We couldn't accomplish what we do here with your help. You have blessed us in

so many way and we are truly grateful for it. May the Lord continually bless you in everything you do.

*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." - 1 John 5:3