



Dan Huber <dmhuber78009@gmail.com>

Jon and Gina Murrell Missionary Report #46 from the Cebu, Philippines - May 2026

1 message

Jon Murrell <jmurrell_82@yahoo.com>

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To: "dmhuber78009@gmail.com" <dmhuber78009@gmail.com>

Greetings from Cebu City!

We are grateful for the opportunity to share an update on the work here and some of the things that have been keeping us busy over the past few months. God has blessed us in many ways, and we're thankful to have you partnering with us in this mission.

FAMILY UPDATE

We are all doing well, staying busy, and thankful that everyone is healthy. Gina and I have started running consistently—about three times a week—as a way to stay active and take better care of our health.

The kids are growing up quickly, which is both exciting and a bit hard to watch. Sean has just one more school year here in the Philippines before graduating and preparing for college. Right now, he's leaning toward studying either marine biology or something related to AI. Liam recently completed a month-long basketball camp where he learned skills like dribbling, shooting, and teamwork. He thoroughly enjoyed it, and his team even won their final game. Jasmin has developed a strong interest in crocheting and enjoys making things for others, especially stuffed animals, and has already built quite a collection of projects.

BIBLE STUDY CENTER AND CLASSES

Since the beginning of the year, the Bible Study Center (BSC) has completed two full sessions, each lasting six weeks, and we are currently beginning our third. We average around 15–20 students per session, with most being non-members of the church. Over the past few months, I've had the opportunity to teach several classes, including Jesus: Man of the Bible, Jesus: Lord of Our Lives, and What is Real Christianity?



If you would like to explore these studies, many of our classes are available for free online at <http://www.biblestudycenter.net> .

While most classes are held at the center, we've seen an increase in online participation. This has allowed several students to continue their studies despite schedule conflicts.

Currently, I am teaching two students online, with a few others being taught by my brothers-in-law.

We have also offer classes specifically for members of the church. One of these is a teacher training class, which begins this week. We currently have five signed up, with a couple more expressing interest. This class is designed to help individuals overcome the fear of teaching and develop the skills needed to share God's Word effectively. It combines teaching theory with practical experience, giving students a safe environment to practice, receive feedback, and grow. The goal is for these individuals to eventually teach at the BSC or lead studies with their own families and communities. Sean and Jasmin are both participating in this class.

SEMINAR: GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR THE FAMILY

From April 15–17, I conducted a three-day seminar entitled "God's Blueprint for the Family," based on our Family Guidelines course. We had over 20 attendees, a mix of members and visitors. During the seminar, we discussed challenges facing modern families and examined biblical principles for strengthening the home, including communication, conflict resolution, and child-rearing.

While we could not cover every topic in depth, several attendees expressed interest in taking the full Family Guidelines course, which is a more in-depth, multi-session study. We are encouraged by the response and look forward to continuing this work.

TRIP TO ILOILO

From March 20–22, Gina and I traveled to Iloilo to visit her family. This trip was especially meaningful, as it was my first time visiting where she is from in our 18 years of marriage.



Gina has already started a kids class last year and during our visit this time, I taught a class with about 10 adults, and we began building relationships within the community.

We also organized a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the last week of April, which was a great success with around 50 children attending. This was our first outreach in the area, and it was warmly received. Because of this, we are planning to return and continue building relationships, with the hope of starting regular Bible studies with both family and others in the neighborhood.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) OUTREACH

The Iloilo VBS marked the first of five consecutive weekly VBS programs, all centered on the story of Samson. We are working together with several members of the church to carry out these efforts.

We are currently in the middle of our second VBS in Japer, located at the base of the mountain where we also conduct ongoing outreach. Several of our members live in this area. Upcoming locations include Oslob in the southern part of Cebu, followed by our mountain outreach area, and finally Balamban on the western side of the island.



While these events are still ongoing, we are encouraged by the initial response and are hopeful for continued opportunities to teach and connect with the children and their families.

MOUNTAIN YOUTH MINISTRY

Our youth activities in the mountain area continue to grow. We currently work with about 15 young people between the ages of 9–15. Most of them do not come from Christian families, but they have been faithfully attending classes and activities for some time.



Once a month, we organize a field trip or group activity to build relationships and encourage them. This past month, we took them swimming and had a cookout together. It was a great time of fellowship, and we are encouraged by the relationships that are being built both with us and among the group.



VEHICLE FUNDRAISING UPDATE

In previous letters, we shared our goal of raising funds to replace our current sedan with a larger vehicle. Our current car is limited in space, terrain capability, and overall usefulness for ministry work. We are looking to purchase an SUV with at least seven seats to better serve both our family and the demands of the ministry.

We are thankful to report that \$7,500 has been raised so far. We are deeply grateful to those who have contributed. The vehicles we are considering typically range from \$15,000–\$20,000, especially due to import costs here. We are also exploring reliable used options to help reduce the total cost. Once we reach our goal, we plan to move forward with the purchase.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Continued success and open hearts during the remaining VBS programs
- Opportunities to establish ongoing Bible studies in Iloilo
- Growth and development of students in the teacher training class
- Provision for the remaining vehicle funds

The Lord continues to bless us with opportunities to reach the communities around us, and we are thankful that you are partners with us in this work. Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support. We truly could not do this without you.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your families.

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



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