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Jon and Gina Murrell Missionary Report #47 from Cebu, Philippines - September 2026

1 message

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

Dear Friends and Fellow Workers in Christ,

Greetings from the Philippines! We are thankful for the opportunity to once again share with you what has been taking place here in Cebu and throughout the Philippines. We are continually grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. Your partnership allows us to continue the work God has given us here, and we never want to take that partnership for granted.

Family Update

The children continue to grow up far too quickly! It is hard to believe that Sean is now only a year away from college. We have begun looking seriously at different university options, both here in Cebu and in other parts of the Philippines, as well as a few possibilities overseas.

We are still trying to determine exactly what direction Sean would like to take with his studies and career. At the moment, he seems particularly interested in either something involving **Artificial Intelligence, IT, or Marine Biology**—three very different fields! We are thankful that we have some time to explore the possibilities with him and pray for wisdom as he considers what God may have in store for his future.

The younger children are growing just as quickly. Jasmin has really been getting into crocheting, while Liam has become interested in basketball. Gina and I are also trying to be more active. At the beginning of the year, we started running and distance walking as a way to get more exercise. Since then, I have lost around 20 pounds.

Our family has also recently gotten over about of sickness. It had many flu-like symptoms and spread quickly through the entire family. For about a week, it seemed like as soon as one person was getting better, someone else was getting sick! Thankfully, everyone now seems to be back to normal.

Trip to Isabela in Luzon

In June, my dad, Barry Murrell, and I traveled to Isabela (northern part of the Philippines) for their biannual get-together, where congregations from all over the northern Philippines come together for a day of worship and fellowship with one another. It was wonderful to see many familiar faces as well as meet some new ones.

In all, more than 200 people attended the gathering. My dad held a seminar on Saturday and Sunday evening, while I was asked to preach to the group on Sunday morning.

It was a great opportunity to spend time with brethren from different congregations and to encourage one another in the work of the Lord.



Bible Study Center — Classes Online and In Person

The classes at the Bible Study Center continue to move forward each session. We have been encouraged by the number of people who continue to attend classes in person, as well as those who participate online.

Offering online classes has been especially helpful for those whose work or family schedules make attending in person difficult. It has also allowed us to reach people who live considerable distances away or even on other islands.

For example, I currently have a student who had been away from his studies for several months but recently decided to continue. He now lives in **Zamboanga**, which is located in the southern part of the Philippines, a considerable distance from Cebu. Because we are able to offer the classes online, his location does not prevent him from continuing his studies.

I also have a couple of classes meeting in person during this session. Being able to offer both online and in-person classes has allowed us to work with a wider variety of students and accommodate the different circumstances they may have.

This has been one of the blessings of combining our in-person and online ministry. The Bible Study Center is not limited simply to those who can physically walk through our doors. We are increasingly able to reach people wherever they may be.



Training Teachers to Teach

Last month, I also began a new **Teacher Training Class** at the Bible Study Center.

While we offer classes to non-members that primarily focus on the Gospels, another important part of our ministry is helping members of the Church grow and become more involved in teaching others. We want to give people opportunities to serve, but sometimes someone may have the desire to teach without knowing where to begin. This class is designed to help with that.

The course consists of **24 lessons**, and throughout the class each student will be assigned a portion of our *Jesus: Man of the Bible* course. They are responsible for preparing that material and then presenting it to the rest of the group. The goal is not simply to teach them information. We want them to actually experience what it is like to stand in front of a group and teach.

By doing this in a controlled and supportive environment, they can make mistakes, receive guidance, learn how to explain the Scriptures clearly, and gradually build confidence. Hopefully, by the time they complete the course, they will realize that they are capable of teaching God's Word and will feel prepared to use that ability within the Church.

We believe that training others to teach is an important part of building a healthy and growing congregation. Our goal is not simply to do the teaching ourselves, but to help others develop the ability and confidence to teach as well.



Youth activity in the mountain area

Vehicle Update

We are continuing to work toward replacing our current vehicle. Our goal for the vehicle fund is **\$20,000**, and we have currently raised **\$7,500** toward that goal.

We continue to look at used vehicles as a possible option, but we have not yet found one that meets both our needs and our budget. We are trying to be patient rather than simply purchasing the first vehicle we find. We want to make sure that whatever we purchase will be dependable and practical for both the ministry and our family.

We are very thankful to everyone who has prayed about this need and to those who have already helped financially. We will continue looking and will keep you updated as the situation develops.

Thank You for Your Partnership

As always, we want to thank you for standing with us. Much of what happens here would not be possible without the prayers, encouragement, and financial support of our friends and congregations in the United States.

Please continue to pray for our family, the Bible Study Center, the students attending both online and in person, and especially those who are being trained to become teachers themselves.

Please also pray for wisdom concerning Sean's future, for our vehicle situation, the work in the mountain area and for the many opportunities God continues to place before us.

We are thankful for your partnership in this work and look forward to sharing more with you in the coming months.

In Christ,

Jon, Gina, Sean, Jasmin, and Liam