



Dan Huber <dmhuber78009@gmail.com>

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**Murrell Missionary Report #34 / June 2022 from Cebu City, Philippines**

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

Fri, Jun 3, 2022 at 9:39 AM

Howdy from the Philippines,

I hope this letter finds you well. Our family is doing great. The kids won't stop growing, which is turning out to be a challenge. I can't believe how fast time goes by. If I'm being honest it's kind of scary. For instance, Sean, our oldest, will become a teenager in a couple of weeks and our youngest will turn 5 mid June. Sean has become a bottomless pit when it comes to food. He's always hungry, and always complaining about growing pains. Next thing you know Sean will be introducing a young lady to his parents and getting married and grandkids and... well that's a bit of a ways off yet but with the way time flies it's just around the corner. Then there is Jasmin, my baby girl. Nope! I'm not going down that train of thought yet. No boys allowed... not yet at least. It's WAY too early for that. She is a really good girl who loves to help her momma out at home. Of the three kids, she's the one who listens her mom the best. For now, they are all healthy and growing, and we are happy about that. Gina and I are doing great as well. We are getting older. I turn 40 this year. Not quite sure how I feel about that but in reality I don't have much of a choice in the matter. On the bright side, I get to grow old with the love of my life and watch my kids grow and mature into what I hope will be fine, God-fearing adults in the future. It can't get any better than that.



A lot of things have happened over the last few months. Without realizing it, I missed sending out the last report so I'll be adding some additional details to this one. I will also be talking a bit about the possibility of me returning to the USA to visit, but I'll leave that for later in this report.

For starters, our efforts at the Bible Study Center continue to reach out to the people in the community. Our classes are still on-going both for our members of the church as well as those outside of the church. I'm currently teaching a New Testament Survey course that goes through the entire New Testament book by book and summarizes the contents of each book. Kind of like a highlight reel if you will permit the analogy. This allows our students to get a better understanding of the grander scope (see the big picture) of what's going on in the New Testament. I've had to do a lot of background study and reading through the books to prepare for this class so it has been very beneficial for me in my personal studies. Please keep my students in your prayers as they continue their studies in the New Testament.

We recently had a baptism. One of our students who have been studying with us for several weeks decided to be immersed. His name is Ranis French and he was a student of ours in the past but for some reason stopped attending classes for a while. Recently, he came back to continue studying and after several classes and him talking with about his intent, he was immersed and joined the family as our newest member of the church.



If you haven't already heard, recently the Philippine Presidential elections have just finished. The country is currently working toward instating the new President and Vice-president during the last week of June. We have mixed emotions about this because of some of the things both the candidates said during their campaigning about the Covid-19 situation. Their plan is to become stricter with everything involving the virus. While I understand where they are coming from, the way they plan to approach it will potentially cause more problems for the Filipino people as a whole. Please continue to pray for the Philippine leadership.

Aside from our normal classes with the kids every Saturday up in the mountains, once a year we have a VBS. It is usually a couple of days event but due to the recent storm and covid situation the kids class in the mountains were put on temporary hold. Last week ,we were finally able to get together with the kids again and classes have resumed. We also had a successful VBS this year where over 80 kids showed up. They had games, prizes, food, and Bible class. The theme this year was about the Creation story found in Genesis 1. The kids and teachers had a blast and even some of the parents who attended got involved as well. We are very happy to be able to resume classes for the kids as well as weekly bible class for the adults in the area.



Because of a few baptisms up in the mountains several of our number began meeting in the mountain on Sunday morning for church assembly. Those who have been immersed as well as their families who are studying with us have been attending on a regular basis and things have been going great. Please keep all these people and their families in your prayers that they will continue to learn from God's message and come to the knowledge of the truth.



Speaking of Sunday assembly, our usual assembly at the Bible Study Center has stopped our online video service and returned to everyone personally attending. We are also having potluck activities every other Sunday as a way for everyone to be able to spend some time with each other and grow relationships with each other.



I mentioned earlier in this letter about the possibility of me returning to the US. It's been three and a half years since we have been back to the states and that's mostly been due to the Covid-19 lockdowns worldwide. Then that the major typhoon hit Cebu pretty hard and messed up our plans for returning. To top it all off, the issue with my son Sean's visa renewal made it even more difficult. Now, that things have settled down around the world regarding the virus we have been talking about the possibility of returning stateside to visit family and supporters alike. The biggest issues we face right now are:

1. Sean won't have a visa to travel stateside until at the earliest Nov or Dec of this year. So if we visit it may have to be pushed back to at least March of 2023 due to school schedules as well as visa issues.
2. With current travel restrictions traveling with small kids will be a challenge especially if something happens like one of us gets flagged as being sick.
3. Tickets are very expensive right now so having 5 of us (4 of which I believe will be paying full price) travel is going to cost quite a bit. When we first raised funds we had budgeted for the tickets to be within a certain price range. Ticket prices now are almost double or even triple depending on the dates and airline we choose to fly.

We want to return to the states and see everyone however it's very difficult at this time to do so. So our options are to 1, wait till March of next year and bring the entire family and hope the ticket prices drop and travel restrictions lax a bit. Doing this, we could stay a couple of months to hopefully see everyone. Or 2, I could make the trip alone and leave Gina and the kids in the Philippines and spend a few weeks traveling around to see as many people as I can. I don't want to spend too much time away from home thus the reason for the less time stateside. I'm trying to decide on what to do. Let me know what y'all think would be best.

As always, we are so grateful for everything you do for us and the Lords work here in the Philippine. It's because of you and your support that we can continue to reach out to the community around us and be a positive influence on them. May

the Lord continually bless you and yours in everything you do.  
We look forward to seeing everyone.

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