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Jon & Gina Murrell Missionary Report #43 / July 2025

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Dear Friends, Family, and Supporters,

Warm greetings from the Philippines! We pray this message finds you well and walking strong in the Lord. A lot has happened since we returned in early May, and we're excited to share how God is working in our lives, our community, and across the country.

Family Update

We made it back to the Philippines during the first week of May, and we're grateful for your prayers and support that made the transition smooth. Everyone is healthy and in good spirits, and the kids have already jumped back into homeschooling, and the work is going strong.

Sean and Liam both celebrated birthdays shortly after our return, Sean turned 16 on June 14, and Liam turned 8 the very next day! It's hard to believe how quickly they're growing up. While Liam usually joins in with the other children during ministry events, Sean and Jasmin often help out when they can, especially during special events like VBS. It's been a blessing to see them grow and get involved in the ministry with us.



Bible Study Center (BSC)

The Bible Study Center continues to be a hub for seeking and learning. We currently have around 15–20 active students, including a few who join online. This doesn't include members of the church and classes we have outside of the facility who also take part in classes.

One student I'd like to mention is a young man from the southern Philippines. He comes from a background where his father is Muslim and his mother is Catholic. Though raised in a Muslim environment, he has become curious about the Christian faith through his mother. We've been studying together online, and it's been a rich and thoughtful journey. Please keep him in your prayers as he continues to seek truth.

Two weeks before we arrived, we received the wonderful news that Derick and Sophia were baptized into Christ. Their decision came after studying and growing in their understanding of the gospel through the BSC. It was such an encouragement to hear about their commitment, and we're excited to continue helping them grow in their walk with the Lord.



Last week, my dad, Barry Murrell, held a 3-day seminar at the BSC titled "Warning Signs." The theme focused on obedience to God and the importance of taking His instructions seriously. We examined several biblical examples of individuals who chose to go against God's commands and suffered the consequences. If you would like to watch this seminar or any of our past seminars, you can check them out on our website at www.biblestudycenter.net

BSC - Home

We offer free classes online or at our office in Cebu City to people of ALL faiths to help them to learn more ab...

Mountain Ministry

Our mountain outreach continues to be one of the most active and joy-filled parts of our work. The location of the mountain top ministry is within a squatter community where a large group of families have settled, but it's become a place of light and learning.



Each week, we meet with 50–60 children, bringing Bible lessons, singing songs, playing games, and sharing meals. What started as a children's ministry has now grown into something even bigger. We now have a youth ministry as well as a small congregation slowly growing among the parents and people in the community. A direct result of ongoing Bible classes and relationships built over time. Please pray for continued growth and maturity among these new believers.



VBS Activity

Just a week after our return, we jumped into a full month of Vacation Bible School (VBS) events, one each week in a different location. The theme was "Let Your Light Shine," and over the course of four weeks, we ministered to over 200 children across the island.



We held 5-day VBS programs in the following areas:

The Bible Study Center – Our home base for local kids and nearby families

The Mountain Ministry area – Reaching the children of the squatter community and surrounding homes

Oslob – A town in the southern part of the island, where we connected with new families

Japer – A nearby area about 15 minutes from the BSC



Each VBS was supported by local church members who helped teach, organize games, and prepare snacks and crafts. It was a huge undertaking, but seeing the kids laugh, sing, and memorize God's Word made every bit of effort worth it.



Legacy Ministry – Continuing the Work

As many of you know, my grandfather, Ken Wilkey, has dedicated over 60 years of his life to mission work all across the Philippines. My father, Barry Murrell, has taken up the mantle of that legacy, and our family is joining the effort to continue and expand the work he began.



On June 19, Barry and I will be traveling to Isabella, where we'll be visiting one of the congregations my grandfather helped establish. We'll be holding a class on Saturday and speaking during the worship service on Sunday. This trip is just the beginning of a broader plan to reconnect with and support congregations across the country that were impacted by decades of faithful ministry.

Please pray for safe travels, meaningful connections, and wisdom as we step into this legacy with humility and purpose.

Vehicle Fundraising

As our ministry grows, both in scope and reach, we've come to realize that our current vehicle, a 12-year-old sedan, can no longer keep up with the demands of travel, hauling supplies, and our family's size.

We're hoping to trade it in for a newer SUV, something like a Toyota Veloz or Rush, which offers more seats and better hauling capacity. The estimated cost is around ₱1.3 million pesos (*roughly \$23,000 USD*). We're planning to finance the vehicle and pay it off monthly for the next 5 years unless we're able to raise the full amount through donations.

If this is a need you feel led to help with, please feel free to contact us directly for giving options, or reach out through the sponsoring congregation. We truly appreciate your prayers and any assistance you can offer.

Prayer Requests

Health, strength, and unity for our family

Continued growth and fruit from the BSC and mountain ministry

Open hearts among the VBS children and their families

Safe travels and lasting impact in Isabella and future legacy trips

Provision for a reliable, ministry-suited vehicle

Thank you for standing with us in prayer, in generosity, and in spirit. Your support fuels this work and strengthens our hearts. We're honored to serve as your partners in the work here in the Philippines.

P.S. - Sending our prayers to those who have been affected by the recent severe flooding in the Kerr County.

In Him,

Jon, Gina, Sean, Jasmin, and Liam Murrell

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel..."
—Philippians 1:3–5