

Malazo Family



SAGADA
MOUNTAIN PROVINCE



Dear praying friends and family,

"I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness. They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness." Psalm 145:5-7

The Lord has displayed His wondrous works and great goodness to us. Please join us in praising Him as we declare His greatness! Let us praise His name together!

Thank you to all who have prayed for Jun's health. After his hospitalization in July, no problems have reoccurred. The doctors told him to walk more to keep his circulation going, which he does each morning. His stamina has improved immensely because of this, and his legs are not having the circulation issues they had earlier in the year.

July and August were months that in some ways feel surreal to our family. Our foster daughter/sister touched our lives in unspeakable ways. While we were committed to her for life, she quickly changed her mind about life with us. She did not want to obey any rules whatsoever. She was a prolific liar and adept thief. Her favourite activity was constantly trying to run away and walk "home"--a 272 kilometer journey. One day Shirley decided to "run away" with her. Shirley took her in a very round-about way to town to meet with Sandra who would take the direct walk to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. (Jun was in the hospital at this time.)

She was not happy when she discovered that she had been tricked. Two hours after we showed up at the DSWD, she was finally convinced to return home with

Sandra. We are very thankful that Brother Godfrey also went to the DSWD with them and drove them home in order to avoid another attempt to run away. Every day was filled with challenges that felt insurmountable. In order to process paperwork for custody, we were sent to another branch of the DSWD where her case was quickly brushed aside. This was not the case at all in Sagada, but we almost expected this at the office in a bigger city. We all sadly realized that we were about to lose her from our lives. We were taken by social workers to meet her family that day near the end of August. Her father is a known escaped criminal, her mother is of ill repute to say the least. Her younger siblings are very evidently neglected, and they live in a structure made from garbage. Words cannot express the sadness in our hearts that day as we were forced to leave her there. Looking back on all that happened those two months, we have many mixed emotions. There were a great many tears. We do not understand why God allowed her to go back to such a terrible situation, but we do understand that Romans 8:28 will always be true. Please pray for Nica.

September found us settling into our new routine after our foster daughter left. The ministry in San Manuel, Tarlac continues. The kids in San Manuel know our foster daughter and were sadly surprised when we arrived without her. After some time in San Manuel we returned to Sagada to continue the ministry there. Our daughters along with some of the young people from our church planned a surprise birthday party for Sandra. This was a special time in which many expressed their gratitude for how Sandra has invested in their lives.

This new weekly routine in Sagada is very full. Sunday is the very best day of the week when we get to be together



all day for church! We leave about 8:15 in the morning and end up at home about 4:00 pm. Usually several of our children's friends end up at our house for dinner. On Monday morning we prepare and take lunch to town to feed the high school students from our church along with any friends they would like to bring! Tuesday is the day we recover our house and ourselves from the weekend and Monday. Wednesday afternoon we teach music lessons. Shirley teaches violin, Sandra teaches flute, and Emmy teaches guitar and ukelele. Thursday is a busy day. Jun and Godfrey have Bible studies at our local police station as well as the local army barracks in the morning. In the evening, while Bible study is held with the Bosaing family in their home, a youth discipleship Bible study is being held in our home. Friday is youth night which is always exciting. Saturday is visitation as well as preparation and set up for church.

was the case when our boys were growing up, and it has not changed. Some of the parents of the young people who were coming to our house each evening became angry saying their children were spending too much time at our house. We prayed that these parents would remember where their young people were before our family returned. Young people in Sagada begin going out drinking with their friends when they graduate from elementary school. When the young people stopped coming to our house, we had at least two incidents of these young people being drawn into drinking with their friends from school. Finally, one of the mothers said to Jun, "I wish my girls would spend their time at your house again!" They have been starting to come back again for which we are very thankful!

Most every day we have a few visitors for dinner. Just like during our first term, the young people have found a safe place. Our home is a place to find food and fun but also a place to go when life gets hard. One evening at about 11:30, we were awakened by a knock at the door. One of our new young people, 13-year-old Joey, had run away from home.

After Jun and Sandra spent some time talking and praying with Joey, he accepted Jesus as his Saviour! Would you please pray for our young people? Alcohol is a huge problem in Sagada. This



October and November were filled with all of these activities but with the yearly interruptions of typhoon season. At one point we spent 120 hours without electricity, and more than a week without cell signal in our area. On the heels of this we spent several days rationing the little water we had because there was no water flowing to our tanks. These situations complicate



life a bit, but God always gives us grace to get through!

Since our family is comprised of three cultures, we did enjoy celebrating both Canadian AND American Thanksgiving and using them as times of outreach. Would you please pray for the salvation of Mikula? He moved to Sagada about a year ago from, Seattle, Washington. Being American, he drew our attention as we saw him around town. God allowed us to meet him across from our house one Sunday while we were unloading our car after church. He enjoys being with our family. The Lord has allowed us to witness to him many times, but he said he does not believe that Jesus is the son of God. Please pray for him to see the truth. We rejoice that his girlfriend, Emarose (who he met in Sagada after moving here), accepted Christ!

December was a very busy month. In Sagada, our church had the privilege of "bringing Christmas" to the soldiers and some of their families that had come to stay at the barracks with their fathers/ husbands for Christmas. God allowed our church to put on a Christmas concert complete with

congregational singing and specials accompanied by the violin, flute and guitars. Our church had 14 people who sang and/or played music for our servicemen and their families. Our church also prepared gifts for the soldiers and their families. After the concert we shared lunch together with the soldiers and their families. This was followed by an impromptu game of tag including adults and children alike! It was a wonderful time! We have seen two soldiers get saved as a direct result of the Bible studies at the barracks.

Our Sunday school children and young people put on a Christmas program for their parents. They did a wonderful job quoting many passages of scripture from memory and singing several songs. God sent several visitors for the occasion. After the program we made Christmas crafts together and decorated Christmas cookies. We had a wonderful time celebrating Christ's birth!

We praise the Lord for many souls saved in the last few months:

Andrew, 13 years old, began attending our church as a very little guy. He began coming at our first VBS led by Cheryl Dyck in 2018. You may remember a girl named Mary who was sent "on assignment" by the demons to kill Jun at church when Matthias and Jun were in Sagada by themselves in February 2024. Andrew is her twin brother. Please pray for Andrew. He is also plagued by demons. Their activity was stepped up after he got saved. Sandra was able to spend quite a bit of time with Andrew one Sunday helping him to reclaim ground that had been surrendered in his life. Andrew has autism, but sincerely





Jory, a teenager we have met through Monday lunches, found himself with the wrong crowd on a motorcycle with a drunk teenage driver in the wee hours of one Friday morning. His friend called us crying asking us to pick them up because they had gotten into an accident. Because of that accident, Jory accepted Christ! Please pray for Jory that he will see himself as God created him to be, so that he won't feel the need to "cross genders" to soothe whatever pain he has in his heart.

Please, pray for the Elbanbuena family. While the mother was working abroad, the father raped their oldest daughter, one of Emmy's good friends. The mom is back in the Philippines with her children. The father took all of their money using it for gambling and hard drugs. When he was reported to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, he ran away. He faces the sentence of life in prison. Please pray for the healing of each member of this precious family. Please pray for the mother to be able to find a job in Sagada by which she can support herself and her four children.

Thank you so much for praying and giving so that these and many other lives may be touched by the love of God. We praise HIM alone for the great goodness He has shown!

wants Satan out of his life. Sadly, after that Sunday he has never been back. He told Sandra that the demons told him that Jun is a bad man and to hurt him. Please pray for Andrew and Mary. Both are scared of us when they see us now.

Two weeks after Andrew got saved, he was excited that his friend Jacob wanted to get saved. Jacob, 11 years old, was taught somewhere that at the end of time he would have to stand at a judgment to see if he was good enough to go to Heaven. When Sandra told him that this was not true he asked, "How can I go to Heaven?"

Andrew, in his simple way said to Jacob, "Believe and die!" Sandra used that as a spring board to Acts 16:31 and explain salvation. Jacob accepted Christ that day!

A week or so later, after hearing the story of Corrie Ten Boom telling people how to get a "ticket to Heaven"; Seth, age 10, and his sister Aubrey, age 8, each accepted Christ. They were eager to secured their "ticket to Heaven". Jacob, Seth and Aubrey have been very faithful to church. Please pray for Jacob. He has been having chronic headaches accompanied with dizziness. As far as we know, he has not been taken to see a doctor.

Winfred, the husband of Lalaine, from the Bosaing family accepted Christ! This is fruit from the Bible study with their family. He struggled with the decision for several weeks because of the pressure of his Anglican family. When he accepted Christ he said that he felt like a big burden was lifted off of him!



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