



Dear faithful friends and prayer partners,

The beginning of this year we could not have imagined what events would unfold throughout the coming months. We are grateful that nothing ever takes God by surprise and that He always has a plan beyond what we could imagine for ourselves. He is good and faithful!

The year began as we expected. Matthias visited us with Grant and Amanda Martens, a couple of young people from his church in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. We were also blessed with a visit by Jun's parents at the exact same time! God allowed us to minister both in Sagada and in San Manuel with this team of visitors.

In Sagada, we held our annual outreach during the town fiesta. Working out of Sonshine Mountain Family Center, the Lord allowed us to reach hundreds of people with gospel literature and Bibles. Free balloons, crayons, Bible coloring pages, and full-color Bible stories were passed out to the children around town. Every year we see new people come to church and receive Christ because of this outreach. In the evenings, our church hosted a youth conference for area teenagers. Matthias led this conference, and did a wonderful job. Matthias, Jun, and Adonis (Jun's father) were the speakers for the conference. How amazing it was to see three generations of the Malazo family serving the Lord together in this way!

In San Manuel, Tarlac, we hosted a gathering for people to be reunited with Mama and Papa as well as Matthias. You see, San Manuel is where Papa was born. He has prayed for his town since he received the Lord in 1995 and is overjoyed that God has called his son and grandson to take the gospel there. Mama and Papa were reacquainted with old friends who still need to be saved. In the Philippines, who you are related to is very significant. Jun and Matthias were "introduced" to the community as Adonis' son and grandson. Papa has a very good testimony to the people of San Manuel, so this helped us gain more respect with some of the people around. We were blessed to see Papa witnessing to his best friend from high school during that gathering. Please pray for George as he is still not saved.

Matthias spent time with the children who have missed him greatly. He and Grant built some benches for our

evening outreaches when we feed the children in San Manuel. They also crafted and hung a basketball hoop. This hoop has proven to be a huge outreach tool. Everyone wants to play at our place because there's a hoop. This hoop has led to our being able to form relationships with the children and many have received Christ! The children loved Grant and Amanda and are asking when they will return!

Only one month after Matthias left, Shirley took a trip she could never have imagined as the year opened. At the beginning of March, she flew to another part of Asia to help a young missionary mom who had to fly to Canada alone with her son to have her baby. The missionary himself could not go to Canada with her because of their visa situation. Her baby was due very soon, so flying by herself with her toddler son, would be an extremely difficult task. Shirley escorted this dear young woman and her son to Canada and then stayed in Canada until the baby was born and they could return to Asia. During this time, Shirley stayed with Matthias and served in Prince Albert Baptist Church.

Meanwhile in the Philippines, we were feeling the gaping holes Shirley's absence left us as we stared into the face of summer. We could not imagine how we could survive the busiest time of ministry without Shirley. The summer, which is March, April, and May, proved to be challenging for sure, but we saw God's hand of blessing on it. God allowed Martina to be home in Sagada for the summer. She jumped in eagerly and capably and helped her church with two vacation Bible schools and youth camp. We have a faithful core who serves in these ministries each summer.

Brother Godfrey is the one who is always "on the ground" in Sagada as our family travels between the two ministries in Sagada and San Manuel. We are very grateful for his faithfulness. No one sees it, but without him, these ministries could not go on. Our little core of people was scheduled to first hold VBS in Sagada. As we were in preparing for this, we received a message that we would be having more visitors from Canada! Pastor and Mrs. Siemens from Central Arctic Baptist Church came to visit us and helped us with VBS in Sagada! They were troopers! The trip from Manila to Sagada is about 12 hours. On the journey to Sagada we stopped for one night in Baguio City. On the journey back to Manila, God allowed us to stay at the San Manuel ministry where they are able to see a few of the people and meet some of the children there. How blessed we are that the Siemens would travel so far to spend time with us!

VBS was a success! God let us minister to over 50 children throughout the week also allowing us to meet new parents with some who continued to go to church after the four days of VBS. Children that we have prayed for the past several years came to our church for the first time during VBS and heard the gospel. February, March, and April were months of reaping as the Lord allowed us



◀ Student Outreach



▲ Sonshine Mountain Family Center



▲ Vacation Bible School

to see many children come to know the Lord as their Saviour!

After we took the Siemens to Manila for their flight home; Sandra, Emmy, and Allie were left in San Manuel (only about three hours from the airport) while Jun traveled alone to Sagada to pick up Brother Godfrey as well as others from our church who would help with the VBS in San Manuel. Martina worked hard planning and coordinating this VBS. In Sagada we minister in English. The languages in San Manuel are Tagalog and Ilokano. Martina spent much time translating songs and creating games in Tagalog. She did an excellent job teaching the children in Tagalog which is her third language! San Manuel is a very tough area with rough kids, but God did a work that week and one boy was saved as a result of VBS!

Summer was finished out in May with teen camp. This three-day camp was begun last year before Matthias left. Our first camp was the “pilot camp”. While many kinks needed to be worked out last year, we saw how necessary this event was for the health of our church as a whole. We all come together to serve the teenagers and create a godly environment where they can learn more about the Lord and also what Godly, wholesome fun looks like. Every day these young people are immersed in secularism and paganism in their schools and homes. Very few of our young people have parents in church—only one actually. So those who come to church are walking with Jesus by themselves in their homes and schools. The camp went well with people making decisions to follow Jesus with their lives. It also further nurtured the family of our church folks. We are praying for wisdom where to hold the camp next year as the current facility will be too small if more attend next summer.

An exciting event during teen camp was our baptismal service. Because we meet in a rented hall, we do not have a baptistry, so we took advantage of the swimming pool at the camp facility! Please pray for Ryza and Jacob, the two young people who were baptized. Ryza comes from a home full of strife and anger. Jacob is the only person saved in his family. They both need the Lord’s strength to make right choices and grow in their Christian life.

Here in the Philippines, school begins in June. As school was resuming, Shirley also returned to the Philippines.

The new school year also begins a time for new routines. Throughout the summer, Sonshine Mountain Family Center was open each Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as well as Saturday mornings and afternoons. Sonshine Mountain Family Center is a place where we can reach into the community by providing a safe place for women and children to come and play and learn about Jesus. Our church does not have a building, but this is a place where people can stop in and meet us. God has used this tiny store-front room to reach many lives with the gospel. Many moms have come to church because of what we fondly call “Sonshine Mountain”. Several children whose parents were completely opposed to their children ever coming to our church, now attend Sunday

school regularly. As their children have played and learned about Jesus at Sonshine Mountain, these parents have also learned more about us. “The Baptists” are still not wanted by many people in this



◀ Baptism



▲ Higher Ground Baptist Youth Camp

community. The Igorots do not want their culture or religion to change. We are different, so those who do not know us simply believe what they are told about us and do not like us. However, as children have come week after week and been loved with the love of Christ, the hearts of adults have been softened. We have seen several children saved as a result of this ministry, and at



◀ Philippine Army Outreach

least five children now attend Sunday school BECAUSE of Sonshine Mountain. Sadly, during the school year, we are only open on Saturdays as our schedule is very full.

We are asking God to send someone to help us specifically with this ministry. Our original vision for this place was to specifically reach special needs children and their mothers. Sandra has had the privilege of having special needs children and their mothers a few times for private play times, but she simply does not have the time to help these people as often as she would like. These children need prayer. One boy, Kiandru, who was diagnosed with autism has begun cutting himself. His mother who is Catholic does not see that she needs Jesus to save her. Please pray that Lilette will get saved, so she can help her son be free from the darkness that is obviously prevailing in his life. Another boy, Aaron, was diagnosed with autism after his father was killed when he was just three years old. His mother, Nora, who has a testimony of salvation, has tried everything available to her in this remote place to help her son. In this process, she has not processed her own heart wounds. Igorot culture very much lacks compassion. As Aaron played at Sonshine Mountain, Sandra prayed with Nora and asked her about her own struggles. Nora broke down and cried. She told Sandra that she was the first person to care about how she feels. She said when she cries, others tell her that she's weak and she needs to get over it. Nora tries to attend church, but has a hard time because of Aaron. He acts out and is very loud. When they do come, our church folks do their best to take care of Aaron so that Nora can sit in the service.

Sadly, these are only two of countless children in Sagada that need help. Most will have pagan rituals done over them inviting spirits to "help" them. This only makes the problem worse. Would you please pray that God will help us to have wisdom to know how to help these misunderstood children who are also tormented by the forces of evil?

Our schedule in Sagada is filled with Bible studies and outreaches. Tuesday afternoons we take lunch into town and eat with any of the high school and elementary

students who would like to join us. This ministry is intended to connect with the young people in their day-to-day life and environment in order to encourage them to live for the Lord outside of church. On Wednesdays, Jun goes with Godfrey to have Bible studies in the home of Peter Tauli. Our church has prayed for Peter and his wife, Geraldine, and their family to get saved for many years. We are thankful that God has opened this door to take the gospel into their home.

Wednesday evenings our church holds prayer meeting in our home. Thursdays Jun and Godfrey have Bible studies with the local police force as well as the local company of the Philippines Military. In the Bible studies at the barracks of the military, people from all over the Philippines and from many different religions, including Islam, are told the good news of the gospel. What could seem like an insignificant outreach at a tiny mountain barracks, has the potential to spread the gospel across our nation.

Fridays we have youth night with dinner, a Bible study, and fun activities together. These times have been significant as the young people will open up more about their struggles in this environment. So many of them have thought about or attempted suicide or have very close friends who have experienced the same. The culture here is deeply saturated with paganism which brings only darkness into their lives. Even those who are striving to live for the Lord live in homes full of statues and charms all dedicated to bringing the power of "the spirits" into their homes. Several weeks ago, a young lady named Mary Jane received Christ because she had been attending Sunday school, youth, and prayer meeting. She has a great burden to see her friends saved as well. Please pray that the young people will continue to grow and learn how to stand strong in their faith.

Each Sunday we meet together to learn from God's Word and worship the Lord. In the morning our entire church works together to minister to an average of 20 children teaching them the Bible and showing them the love of Christ. We eat lunch as a church in the afternoon. At 2:00 pm we have our adult service as well as a junior church time which is more of a discipleship-type class for children who are already saved. Please pray for Laika and Denver and their one-year-old son, Khalix. They come to church off and on, but we are begging God to help them to be faithful to him every Sunday and more importantly every day of their lives.

Our family is generally in Sagada for about 17 days at a time, and then we travel to the ministry in San Manuel where we generally stay for about 12 days. So, we are usually in Sagada for three consecutive Sundays and then in San Manuel for two consecutive Sundays. Praise God, Brother Godfrey keeps the ministry in Sagada going while we are in San Manuel. While there, we feed around 25 children each evening and give them basic first aid medical care. The children of San Manuel are physically



◀ Boys' Bible Study

neglected. Emmy overheard one of the children say to another in her language, "You didn't come to Pastor's house tonight. What will you eat for dinner?" This past time in San Manuel, a little five-year-old little boy named Jayden was brought to us because he had a severe infection on his foot. We sent some pictures to Sandra's cousin who is an EMT in the US. She confirmed that the infection was as bad as we feared, and he needed to be hospitalized immediately so he would not lose the two smallest toes on his right foot. Jayden's mother was repeatedly resistant to seeking medical help even laughing at Jun, so we did our best to clean it and treat it with our limited knowledge and supplies. We also asked many people to pray. God chose to heal Jayden's foot in a way that was very evidently only by HIS power! Our simple first aid kit has been used by our mighty God to show many children the love of Jesus. Love is NOT something these children receive in their day-to-day lives, but by God's grace they are seeing Jesus' love "at Pastor's house".

Each Sunday in San Manuel, we hold an adult Bible study at 2 pm. The small group is slowly growing. The last Sunday we were there, eight people were in attendance. Only one person in this group has already accepted Christ. Please pray for the salvation of Nelson and Gemma and the others who have begun to attend. At 5:30 we have Children's Bible Club. The Lord has shown us a website where we can get Tagalog Bible lessons for free: truewaykids.com. From this site we can print Bible stories that have been translated into Tagalog as well as corresponding coloring pages. The ministry of True Way Kids has been invaluable to us.

God started a new Bible study in San Manuel. Each evening after we feed the children and sit to spend time with them, the older boys stay for a Bible study with Jun.

These boys have now memorized eight Bible verses having to do with salvation. They have many questions and are coming close to being ready to accept Christ. A new young man named Lucky joined the Bible study. Jun found out that he has already accepted Christ but has never really been in church after that. Lucky has a burden for this Bible study to grow and to see a church started in San Manuel. Not surprisingly, it was the basketball hoop that Matthias installed at the beginning of the year that kept drawing these boys back. And now, Lucky even comes if he is too late for the meal and the basketball! Please pray for the salvation of these boys: Bien, Ramram, Arvin, JM, Cedric, Jerson, Alexander, Paul Derek, Nathan, and Ford.

The Philippines is currently in typhoon season. The journey between Sagada and San Manuel is about eight hours long with six of those being on the winding, dangerous mountain roads. Exhausted is how we usually feel when we arrive in either place. During typhoon season the journey is even more dangerous as we never know if there will be a road around the next bend. Every year people are killed in landslides. We praise God for His protection each time we make this trip, and we ask you to continue to pray for our protection. Please also join us in praying for more labourers to join us in both ministries. We know God is calling, please pray that people will obey His call and join us to see the unimaginable things God wants to do here in the Philippines.

Thank you again for praying. . .and for waiting patiently for this update. We really cannot express our gratitude for your faithfulness. May God richly bless you for serving Him in this way!

In Christ,

Jun and Sandra Malazo and family



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