

The Mindanao Report

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A good month of steady progress!

I believe that mission work is one of the most blessed things in the ministry - if you **love the people**, and if you're up for **the challenge**!

Pictured above is one of the guards at a local bank whom I invited to visit our place with his family. It took about 3 weeks before everything worked out, but he visited on a Saturday night and I had Alemar, one of our Bible students, preached the gospel to him and his whole family! His name is ConCon (Charlie). He was interested, but hasn't come back since (*sound familiar?*) but I always give the guards a "salute" and a lot of respect everytime I go to the ATM. Small talk goes a long way for friendship here, and friendship and relationships are the key to ministry, at least in this mission field.

Brother Alemar belongs to the Gerenia (Her-ren-ya) family; his father is my Cebuano language teacher and also a farmer. His family lives with us here on the property and we built a bamboo house for them to live in. They are a great blessing and we thank God for them! They are being taught in the word every Sunday in their own language - Cebuano! What a blessing!

Building Project Update:

A small update on the building project. THANK YOU all so much for your generous donations in helping with this project! We have been able to dig and build all the septics, build the bathroom for the church, build the office next to the church, the whole fence is done (temporarily with metal sheeting, and we will slowly change it into a cement wall). We also have a gate, and the workers have begun working on our house. By the end of the month they should have the flooring and the roof done, but we will have run out of money by then.

We have had to cycle through several different groups of workers, as "good help is hard to find these days." We have hired lazy workers, thieves, skilled workers with high demands, and we have gained a lot of experience about building projects in the Philippines. Needless to say, it's been trying and costly - we have even had workers steal money from us. All you can do is take the loss and pray for their salvation! Even so we've made some good steady progress, and we have attached some picture for you to see what the LORD has done!

The workers also put together a giant tarp area with the left-over bamboo to cover the wood and protect it from storm and weather. This area doubles as a "church area" for the time being.



Hear, ye deaf (the good news)!

I had a great opportunity this month to preach - not one, but two - deaf graduations! The deaf teacher asked me if I could spend all day (8 hours time) preaching (signing) and ministering with songs, Bible lessons, activities, and games. I invited Alemar to come along and he had a blast doing the games with the deaf! I will attempt to attach some videos to this prayer letter through email if it will let me.

There was great joy amidst the 9th and 10th grade group, and a week later with the 7th and 8th grade groups! They were so excited to graduate and I preached to them about their future with the text from the book of James - "what is your life? It is even a vapour..." They very soberly considered their ways before the LORD and I told them no matter what they decided to do in life, their chief priority was trusting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and then following Him in every avenue of life.

The question came up from the staff - "how much do you charge?" I replied, "nothing, I just want to be a blessing to the deaf!" They answered, "well, we want to know how much you charge, because the Catholic priest won't come and do anything unless he gets paid for it!" TYPICAL! **"Freely ye have received, freely give."**

Please continue to pray for the language learning, and the soon start of the church here in the city of El Salvador. Pray for the souls of the people, and the effective work of the Holy Spirit of God in their lives. AMEN!

- The White Family

