

September 29, 2017

Dear friends,

Hi again from the Philippines. Have been reading the news concerning Houston flooding, the Florida destruction and Puerto Rico and hoping are brethren will get help. My niece is in Houston and her house was flooded but alot of people are helping her. Hope Wilshire is doing ok.

Time has been slipping by. One thing which we recently accomplished after two years of delay is organizing the contents of containers sent here by Salvador Cariaga. They were stored away in a shed and were being attacked by insects - termites and ants. It was a big job to haul all the boxes out under our tarp and categorize everything. We got our student college interns to come help us that weekend and divided the books into songbooks, Bibles, commentaries, religious books, educational books, hospital supplies, and Gospel tracts. We were able to distribute some of the Bibles tracts and songbooks to local congregations and books to schools. We are making plans to distribute more - possibly to preachers meetings and to more schools and clinics. It was sort of a massive project as there were hundreds of boxes and took two full days.

One thing that people don't realize when they donate goods to the Philippines is that they don't many times give some funds to distribute them. I and another missionary here give salaries to the students for two days, gave them travel money to come help us, spend to feed them, and gas money to the preachers to distribute the materials. We don't mind, but our funds are somewhat limited. In all this we thank God that many will be blessed with all this, especially the Bibles!

Another thing that is a challenge is the transportation. One day I need to go to town and couldn't take the Kia because it needed a new transmission, couldn't take the green truck because it needs a new engine, couldn't take the white truck because it was in the shop getting a new clutch, so we took the small purple multicab. While we were traveling the tire started shaking. One bolt had already been missing and we lost another bolt so

we had to turn around and go back. Our road is very rough and is hard on the trucks because our burangay (neighborhood) captain was feuding with the next door burangay captain and Arapal was caught in the middle. The World Bank though we hear is providing funding to pave it next October 2018.

Was able to speak on faith two Sundays ago, a subject I have been thinking about a lot lately as we and so many of our brothers and sisters are confronted with difficulties and must learn to trust God and ask for wisdom.

One congregation who sponsors a medical missions team here every year want to build a small clinic here which is good news if we can work it out.

The church building project is still being pursued. We saw the architect again last week and expect some news on pricing within a couple of days. Please pray for this effort.

Sunday evening we will have a third year anniversary celebration at the Anarba church building. We need to begin again an outreach there. It is a very pretty spot that looks over a big valley.

Well, all the best, Yours in The Savior,
Brother John Gardner