

**Malazo Family, Philippines**

**December 27, 2024**

Dear Pastors and Prayer Partners,

I pray that you are having a wonderful Christmas season! The Lord has certainly given our family unexpected blessings during this special time of year. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for praying for our family and ministry. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for your continued prayers and financial support. The Lord is at work in our midst! People are getting saved and lives being changed. Interestingly, this is not happening in a place where we had expected.

***Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."***

Life is full of what can be perceived as delays and disappointments. Oftentimes, God's calendar does not coincide with our plans or timetables. However, God promises us that He is always in control and that He always accomplishes His plans. As Proverbs 3:5-6 exhort us, we must have complete trust in the Lord.

Near the end of July, our family traveled to San Manuel, Tarlac. This town, where I spent part of my childhood, is about a nine-hour drive from Sagada. I have many relatives still living in San Manuel and the house that my father built for our family is still there. We originally just planned on staying in San Manuel for 3 days to attend to some business. However, God had other plans which we told you about in our last prayer letter.

***Psalms 27:14, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."***

The verse above is a great reminder to us that in times of uncertainty, we need to trust God's timing. So we have waited.

Finally resolving the issues in the new van has been a time-consuming process. At first, the process was very discouraging, but the Lord is always faithful. He has supplied the funds needed for the parts and labor and has encouraged our hearts throughout the process.

***Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."***

The thought came to mind that God must have a plan for our family being "stuck" in San Manuel. As previously mentioned, San Manuel was a place where I spent part of my childhood. I was only 10 years old when we left the Philippines to move overseas. While my childhood did have blessings, there were also many difficult times which resulted in much trauma in my life. Alcoholism was a problem in my family, and my cousins and I suffered the consequences of growing up in this environment. Thankfully, many years later, after my family left, someone brought the gospel to my extended family. While many of my dad's siblings have professed Christ, most of their children and grandchildren are now the ones trapped in the stronghold of alcoholism. Today as I observe San Manuel, I see children all

around me growing up in the same circumstances that I grew up in. This has burdened our hearts to reach the children and their homes in the neighborhood with the hope only found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In October, we started a nine-day children's Bible club which has now turned into a weekly Bible Club. Two weeks ago we also started an adult Bible study. Since beginning these outreaches, 10 people have accepted the Lord as Savior. We are beginning to see inroads into many homes in the community because people have seen the love of Christ in a tangible way. God also provided for our family, with the help of Pastor Ariel Cabilao and Pastor Anjo Tongol, to hold a Christmas evangelistic concert in an area of San Manuel called San Miguel. My father owns 15,000 square metres of land in San Miguel which is completely at our disposal. Near the land is a covered basketball court and meeting place available for free use to the citizens of San Miguel. The Lord allowed us to secure the facility, and the evangelistic Christmas concert was held December 20th. We praise God that 56 people attended from the community. This included adults and children. Some of the adults raised their hands during the invitation showing interest in salvation. Please pray that these will come to salvation as we follow up with them in the coming days.

San Manuel needs a gospel-preaching church. While God has not yet revealed all the details, I believe that the Lord wants us to start an outreach here. God has NOT indicated that He is calling us away from Sagada, but that in addition He wants us to reach this area as He leads. Will you please join us in prayer for God's wisdom and direction? Please pray for laborers to be raised up. As long as the Lord has us here, we will continue to do our best to give the gospel to those around us. As we disciple the new Christians, they are learning of their position in Christ and how to be set free from the strongholds of Satan in their lives.

Micah has made a video which highlights some of what God has been doing since our return to the Philippines. Please follow the link below to see God's work. Attached are a few snapshots of the Christmas concert held in San Miguel, San Manuel.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this email during this busy Christmas season. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email. Thank you once again for your faithful prayers and support. God is at work!

In Christ,

Brother Malazo