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THE CABA FAMILY

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Dear Friends,

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, His compassions fail not. They are new every morning, great is [His] faithfulness.

Our 2020 begins with praises

with what the Lord did to us during the first quarter of this year. On our last prayer letter, we shared about the challenges and at the same time opportunities of being able to share the gospel at nearby malls during the weekdays. Throughout the week, ODBC members report to our congregation of the mission that each one has accomplished during the day. It is such a great blessing to hear from their testimonies that Jesus still saves! Each week, we are also able to invite to church those whom the gospel has been shared to during the week. Now it is our greatest joy to let you know that labours were not in vain. On February 25th, it was an honor to be able to baptize twin brothers who were results of this operation. Not shortly after, they were able to bring their younger sister to church on our Sunday services. Praise the Lord!

Our kids' centers were also being faithfully taught by members each week. We were able to serve the average of 15 centers with about 400 kids at simultaneous teachings about the wonderful love of Jesus. We thank the Lord for members' hearts that are willing to sacrifice their time and efforts to assist.



During the last part of 2019,

the Lord has impressed upon my heart to reach out to the homeless in Manila. It was a 'good-heavy-burden' that I could not contain. We shared this impression to ODBC and we thank the Lord for such supportive spirits. In February, I and the men of ODBC were finally able to go out 'hunting' for the homeless. I appreciate the humbleness of each man that went out with me. Each man had a career that they had to go to in the morning and would have to prepare for as early as 6:00 am for work. But they were willing to sacrifice their time to go out at 9:00pm until about 2:00am the next day just to be able to minister to the 'known-least' of the people in the society. As we went out, I discovered that many of them are migrants from another island, known as 'Badjaos'. The Badjaos have come to the city in Manila with hopes to find better living. That island had been overwhelmed with Muslims, to which 'lifestyle' many of them have adapted and were driven to be converted to Islam in order for them to blend in and not be convulsively harmed by rebels. But now, as they migrated to Manila with their families, life had been more difficult for them. Speaking a different dialect, looking different, and maybe smelling different, it is difficult for the society to accept them and give them reasonable jobs. Because of this, some of them ended up staying at parking spaces of business establishments, some erect boxes big enough for them to sleep in, while some spread old boxes to lie on during the night.



As far as our coping for COVID-19

is concerned, our adjustment here in the Philippines is not as good. The school year is not yet done, but classes were suddenly suspended for the safety of our children. We are still waiting when it will resume. Health kits are out of stock and only frontliners, medical and essential workers, are allowed to go to work. So much checkpoints are out in the streets making sure that only one person per household is allowed to go out for necessities per week. The adjustment of the Filipino people when it comes to ENHANCED QUARANTINE is so difficult. Naturally, social distancing is such a great challenge for many. Because of the lockdown, we were obligated to have our services through online streaming. We are grateful for things that the Lord allows us to do through technology.

Please do continue to pray for our fellow countrymen. The total lockdown is so difficult for many. It is not because people are hard-headed and would not like to cooperate with the system. It is just because several people have to work-a-day to eat-for-a-day. Many are not able to save basic commodities for the future because they just do not have any money for that. Our family is also trying our best to continue to reach out to them and doing our best to share to their basic needs.

We know that you, too are going through this worldwide pandemic. We pray for your safety and that you would always be at the best of your health. We pray for pastors as we know that it is always a spiritual and emotional battle to be preaching to empty pews on a Sunday morning because of the quarantine. The end time is near... and with this we are reminded that we must strive to be ready to face our Lord at any time.

With our situation right now, we encourage you to be strong... our Lord is in control!

Ruel was one man whom I was able to share the gospel to. He had a great big bag full of fried chicken. As I looked closer to its contents, I smelled the odor of spoiled food. Then he shared to me that during the daytime, he would go around the city to collect scraps from dumps behind fastfood chains. He would put these in his great big bag for him and his other friends to gather in for dinner that night. As we shared the gospel to them, the experience was an eye-opener and a tear-jerker personally for me, to make me grateful to the Lord for all of the things He has blessed me with. We were able to share to the homeless the gospel of Jesus Christ and hand out a meal-in-a-box to each of them. Many accepted the Lord as personal Savior and Ruel was one of them. They were directed how to get to the ODBC and we promised to give them a meal whenever they come to church. Hopefully, we can do this twice every month.



Dan, Jamila, Jamie Claire, Keziah Dawn, and Kerien Gail