

The Caba Family

Manila-Philippines

dan, jamila, jamie claire, keziah dawn, kerien gail



Dear Friends,

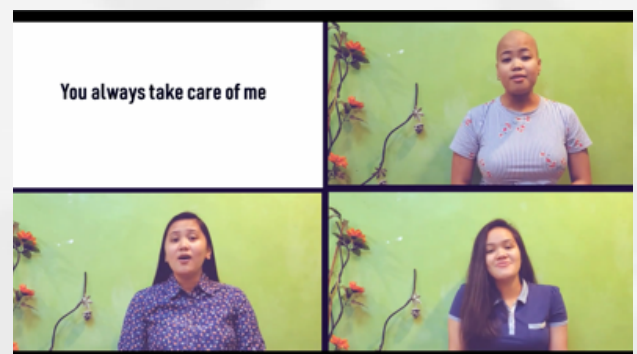
If Year 2020 were given a title here in the Philippines, I guess it would definitely be called "Unpredictable". For us, Year 2020 has been a roller coaster ride! And as we had our plans written out on our calendar last January, for the last 3 quarters, most of our plans were not fulfilled. But, the Lord remains gracious in everything. His plans are higher and His ways turned out way better than what we had originally planned out.

Since our last prayer letter to you, we have moved one-step-at-a-time here at the Open Door Baptist Church. Because of COVID-19, we were limited with our face to face church gatherings. It was not until late June when 5% of the congregation were allowed by the government to come to church. Today, we are still limited, however, we cannot control the people to not come. Transportation is very limited for many, and I do not know how they are able to do it but they do their best to find ways to come.



Though we are still on distancing, we are already able to gather and worship on a regular basis each Sunday. Because we still cannot meet for our prayer meetings and discipleships, we conduct these meetings online. It is a one-step-at-a-time recovery process but we do the best that we could in the midst of this crisis.

In September, the ODBC family mourned at the loss of a dear sister, Krizia, age 21. She battled cancer since February and was declared to be infected with COVID-19 during her last days. Though we grieve, we know that today, she is now happy to be in the presence of our Lord. As we recall, Krizia was a product of our high school campus ministry. And as a student, she took her two other sisters with her to ODBC. Today, both sisters are faithfully serving the Lord. One of them is married to one of ODBC's home grown young men who has committed his life to becoming a pastor someday. While the other sister is ministering every Saturday on our online youth programs through her beautiful singing. With these accomplished, Krizia truly served God's purpose for her life and remains to be a role model for the young ladies at ODBC.



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On October 25, we formally held a 'sending-out' ceremony for four of our home-grown preachers. Three men are working along the outskirts of Manila, while the other one is near one of the existing daughter churches which is situated North of the Philippines. We are grateful to the Lord that in spite of what is going on around the world, He continues to supply. He used a church in Ohio to provide for the needs of the start of four churches. With the funds sent, personal transportation and places to hold church services are provided for these preachers. Currently, both online and offline discipleships and Bible studies are already being held in each of their areas. Lord willing, this December, two of them would already be able to hold a gift giving program for a few of the kids around their communities. We can't wait until the government completely lifts social restrictions caused by the pandemic so that we could already start gathering regularly for church services. We are excited with what the Lord has in store for us!



As the year goes on, still Year 2020 goes unpredictable. In November, we were hit by a strong typhoon. One of our daughter churches was greatly affected: ODBC-San Mateo. Floods rose reaching up to the roofs of their homes; food and water was very scarce for them. But once again, all we can say is "Praise the Lord... His mercy is everlasting." Again, the Lord continues to provide for this as brethren there are recovering from the ruins of the flood.



Today, the year almost comes to an end. Still, no words are enough to describe God's faithfulness to His children during this trying time in each of our lives! We know that you, too, are going through struggles right now as the entire world is. Our continuous prayers of grace and safety are for you. Despite this pandemic, from the bottom of our hearts, we would like to sincerely let you know how grateful we are for your lives and for the love that you have for the Lord's ministry.

As I began this letter, I stated that it has been a roller coaster ride: a year full of ups and downs. But as the Lord promised, there is always a rainbow after the storm. At the end of our roller coaster ride, because of God's abundant grace, we can still greet you a very

Merry Christmas and our prayers of a blessed New Year be upon you!