



# *The Caba Family*

Manila, Philippines

**"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23**

After a year of limited gatherings here in Manila, we praise the Lord that once again we were permitted to face to face services at the start of 2021. Though this opening was only temporary, it was still beautiful to see our chairs filled with people. We felt that our members so much wanted to be back in church. During this window of opportunity, we braved out to add more church activities. We met in homes and prayed for loved ones who were ill. Our young people were again gathering face to face with discipleships and fellowships. Oh, you could just sense the hunger of God's family wanting to be together!

When the lockdown (face to face limited gathering) was officially implemented in March 2020, I was at first concerned of our new converts' spiritual growth. Among this group were two brothers (a set of twins) who got baptised just right before the lockdown was declared. But we continued our virtual Discipleship sessions every week and we continued to do this throughout the year. When the government temporarily opened the doors to face to face gatherings this year, these two brothers were those that sat on the first row during the services. I felt their sincere hunger for God's Word. They were so willing to give out their hearts to all church activities. Today, these two have also invited a friend and were able to share to him the gospel. Now this friend also brought another friend to church and led her to Christ. Again, I am reminded that God is in control. And nothing can stop anything from Him doing His will.

It is a fact that we know that it is not government protocols that we are up against but instead is an antagonist that we cannot see. More cases of COVID-19 began to rise in our area striking whatever age it desires. We have a brother in Christ who has just recently lost his parents both at the same

day. While at their mourning stage, they had to be placed in quarantine as his brother had also tested positive. At this point, we, at ODBC, initiated to work together and just made sure that they felt loved. Meals were cooked for their families and prayer chains went on for them several days. Even we at our family, at one point, suspected that some of us were hit by the virus with the symptoms of a light fever, uneasy breathing, and the loss of taste and smell. But because we couldn't imagine our child being alone in the hospital, we braved it out to self-medicate at home and followed all precautionary measures. The Lord is gracious, He is our Jehovah Rappha: the God that heals. It is certainly ONLY BY HIS GRACE that we were able to overcome and that things did not go too complicated for us just like how others had to go through. Vaccines are now available here but are first given to frontliners and senior citizens.

We are now at the third wave of the pandemic, and are once again on lockdown here in Manila. We are now back to virtual services: back to zoom discipleship meetings, back to Facebook live preaching on Sundays (with actually just preaching to my family and to

the chairs and walls of the church). But we praise the Lord because we can put technology to wonderful use. More and more viewers on our youth's Shine Saturday episodes via Facebook live have expressed appreciation to this ministry. It composes of songs, testimonies, a review from the previous pulpit preaching, games, devotion, and so much more. Viewers are brethren as far as the North of the Philippines to some from the South. They have expressed to us how encouraging the episodes are especially during the pandemic when fellowships are very limited. The Lord works in unexpected ways, and we dedicate all our actions and ministry to Him.



**temporary face to face opening in January**



## Satellite Churches Continue

Today, our satellite churches also continue with their ministries through virtual meetings. During the temporary face to face opening, our mission pastors also took this opportunity to visit with families in their fields. The hunger for God's Word during Bible studies and Kids' sessions can be sensed in their atmosphere. Their ministries are growing even in the midst of a challenge. And we recognize God's graciousness in all of these!

As the Lord allowed us to continue our ministry in 2021, we completely entrust everything under His care. We might be controlled to face to face worship as our country continues to battle with this pandemic, but still, the Lord tells us that He is in full control.

As you send us your personal regards through Facebook, airmails, and emails, we feel the love of God flowing through you. We truly appreciate your prayers for us. As we gather each evening in our family devotions,

*we thank God for you!*

Under His grace,  
Bro. Dan, Sis. Jamila,  
Jamie Claire, Keziah Dawn,  
and Kerien Gail



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