



*“For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again,
and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.”*

Job 14:7

March 31, 2021

Dear Friends and Partners,

Almost exactly one year ago we were requesting prayer that we could adjust and manage in the face of the uncertainty of a new disease and restricted movements placed on us. Here we are again, with a severe increase in cases and new variants, finding ourselves again in lockdown. For one year, almost all of our kids have not been off-campus. We are grateful for the outing we took last December instead of Christmas gifts and that a few of the older kids were able to attend church at Calvary Baptist Church on a couple of occasions.



Again, we find ourselves in a place of uncertainty in terms of how long and how tight restrictions will continue to be. Our church services at Hope will remain focused on our staff and children, without being able to freely invite the community to join us. Further, the children will likely spend another year studying through modular learning, right here on campus. We are thankful and blessed that these two most important aspects of life, church, and school, are well maintained right here on campus.

Since our last update in January, despite the difficult situations we face, there has been tremendous growth and progress in so many areas for us:



Achieving in Education: We celebrated with the AWESOME news that 4 of our kids, who were neglected of education for a major part of their lives, through much hard work and dedication in the face of many discouragements, are now officially ready to enroll at the grade level of their biological age. One young girl came to us at 11 years old, barely knowing the letters of the alphabet; she is now 14 years old and eligible to enroll in Grade 7 next year. The other children continued regular studies through the distance learning program of Calvary Christian Academy, in the school that we have started in our multipurpose building. However, with restrictions being put in place again this last week, formal schooling will again be put on hold. We will continue, however, our daily education times with the teachers we have hired at the center.

Advocating for Families: The processing of adoptions or family reunifications are the main goals for every child. Our hearts rejoice to report that one little boy was reunified with his single mom and siblings in February. Sometimes a parent simply needs a bit of time and a little help to find a job and get on her feet, and we were happy to continue to be a part of helping this family stay whole.

We also placed another little boy with his ‘forever family’ since our last report in January. We maintain a close and loving relationship with the families of the children who are adopted from our center and it is a most beautiful thing to watch and be a part of. All of the time, effort, and money spent seem a light burden when we see the families pouring their hearts and lives into a child who otherwise would grow up without a family of their very own. The world today is focused on their rights; various rights that many people may enjoy, demand, or be deprived of and fighting for. It makes us wonder how often it is considered or forgotten that there are thousands and thousands of children around the world that are deprived of their basic right of having a family. What a privilege and joy are to be a small part of making sure that these kids are not deprived of their right to a family. We love and dearly miss each child that leaves us, but we are forever grateful and in love with the idea of making a way to prove this basic right, that until now, they didn’t have and enjoy.

Also, since January, the final documents that declare Joshua and his twin sisters available for adoption are nearly complete: we recently were told a psychological report will be required for Joshua since he is now older than 5 years old. Considering Joshua’s heart condition, hearing



impairments, and the fact that they are a sibling group of three, they will be an international adoption. Please be praying for these siblings that God would see them to the family that He has been preparing for them. It is our hope and prayer that they will be with that family before the end of April this year.

We currently have 2 children being prepared for immediate reunification with family. Visits and calls have been ongoing and we will just finish out the school year before sending them home with a long term for monitoring and assistance.

We are particularly excited to be processing our first placement into a foster family. It is very special, not only because a child will be in a family setting with the love, nurture, and attention she needs, but also because the family is a fellow pastor and his wife from our area.

Foster Care is an important and special part of the adoption process. We are thankful for families that are willing to take a child into their home and show them the love and structure of a family as they prepare to be adopted.

We welcomed baby girl A to our home with open arms and joyful hearts, and yet with sadness considering the situation. We picked her up outside the hospital that caters to inmates from Manila City Jail. We took her from her mom's handcuffed arms and brought her to our home to where her 3 siblings were waiting for her. We do not know the future for this family, but we pray that God will allow us to be everything they need until he provides them a family of their very own.



Acquiring needed Funds: An update letter from an orphanage would not be complete without a plea for donations to meet the overwhelming financial needs, so here it is: **We need money.** Not just once in a while for big projects or special needs, but also *every month to me the day to day needs.* We count on donations from you, our partners, not only for food, shelter, clothing, and education, which are extremely important but also for the random, unseen but extremely important needs like 1. Medical needs: from vitamins and common colds to severe dental work to chronic ear infections and hearing loss. 2. Post-trauma needs, specifically counseling and supervised family visitation and counseling. 3. Documents that are a requirement for adoptions like psychological evaluations (about \$325 per child as needed), filing for birth certificates that parents completely neglected, surrender papers, marriage certificates, death certificates, and witness affidavits of relatives and neighbors, as well as the gas, tolls and other travel expenses needed for the miles and miles that we travel every week looking for parents, getting signatures and obtaining such documents. 4. Salaries to pay administration personnel, house parents, caretakers, teachers, maintenance and security. 5. Taxes, utilities, permits, certifications and other such needs that an organization must maintain.



We recently had to close our PayPal account and ask that all funds be sent through our mission board. You can donate to Bahay Sibol through BEMA (Baptist Evangelistic Missionary Association):

By CHECK: BEMA, at 4744 Winchester Pike, Columbus, Ohio 43232
Please write BAHAY SIBOL in the memo area of the check

PayPal account: Baptist Evangelistic Missionary Association

If you need more information about donations, please message us through our Facebook page or at bahaysibol.philippines@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continuous encouragement through pray and support through finances, without you we could not do all that is needed for these kids in terms of love, care, and connecting them to families. You are needed and very much appreciated.

Send Donations to:
BEMA
4744 Winchester Pike,
Columbus, OH 43232, USA
1(614)833-0488
Designate to: Bahay Sibol

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