

The Gormley's

Missionaries to the Philippines

September 2017



Dear Pastors and Friends,

FURLOUGH, by common definition, is a temporary leave of absence, often times for the purpose of rest and recuperation. After more than 76,000 miles, 15 days in hospital stays or doctor appointments, homeschooling for the first time EVER, 5 months away from our college age daughters, parenting from across the globe, and endless calls and messages to ministry leaders in the Philippines, we are currently looking for a new name for this very curious thing we missionaries do every 3 to 5 years. Lest we lead you to think we have only negative ideas about time spent in America, let us share just a few of the many, many blessings we gain during our time away from home.

Family Ties: One of the greatest sacrifices made by missionaries who go to the foreign field is separation from their families. We are extremely grateful for the time that we were able to spend with our extended family, especially the 90th birthday of my grandmother! It was also a huge blessing to have all 6 of our kids here together for a short few weeks. We are slowly making our way to parenting adult children which has made us much more aware of how fast time flies by and how important these few moments truly are. Please pray for our girls as they make life long decisions, for their safety and our sanity as we learn how to parent adult children ☺. This was the first time that our foster boys, Carlo and Luis, have met our families and visited the United States; it has been a complete joy to make them a part of our family and see them enjoy all things American. We are especially grateful to Bradley Edmonson of MMO and the great doctors he put us in touch with for the surgery that Luis underwent to correct some severe breathing and ear problems, he is doing amazingly well now.

Partnering Churches: We have had the privilege of visiting 65 churches this year: 18 of them new churches to our ministry. We are constantly amazed and in awe at how incredibly hospitable and caring churches are to us: we sincerely thank each of you who had us in to make a report to your church. While our personal support level is doing well, it is our goal to continue to raise ministry support that will enable us to help more Bible institute students, send more kids to school, start more churches, accept more kids to the childrens home, and continue to be a part in the lives of our people and community in so many other ways. Please pray with us that these new churches will make a positive decision to be a part of our ministry financially. We perceive and are convinced that the prayer support going up for us from each of the churches will prove to be a main source of power for our ministry. We are thankful for about \$5000 that has been given/pledged for the needed multipurpose building at Bahay Sibol and amazed at the almost \$10,000 we have been able to set aside from love offerings after travel and personal expenses: this too will be put towards the multipurpose building. We are estimating approximatley \$120,000 needed for the building. This building will be used as a day care center for women and children in need as well as a new church plant ministry. If you would like to be a part of making this ministry happen, please send us a message for more details.

Bonds of Friendship: Spending precious time with other pastors and leaders in the ministry, sharing burdens, exchanging ideas and learning from each other is yet another great aspect of being on furlough. We head back to the field with our hearts full and our minds swimming with new ideas ready to be implemented in our own ministries. Considering where we are on our journey with the childrens home and our 2 foster children, soon to be adopted, we are most especially thankful for a great amount of time spent with fellow pastors and church leaders who are in similar places in their lives with foster or adoption; both in their ministires and families. The extended time spent sharing, encouraging, exchanging experiences and lessons learned together with Pastor Trent & Pam Kirkland, Pastor Brent & Valerie Stancil, Bradly & Kelly Edmonson were priceless and very much appreciated. We thank God for giving us good friends with common desires and vision for family life and ministry goals. The care for children in need continues to grow as a major thrust of our family and ministry. It is our prayer that we could influence and mentor other people to take an active part in fulfilling the command of James 1:27, to care for the fatherless.

We earnestly covet your prayers as we get back to the Philippines and begin the process of putting into action those things that we have spent the last 6 months preparing and planning for: mainly planting a new church, improving and growing the Bible Institute, and seeing more churches started. Thank you for your partnership over the years and we look forward to yet another term full of hard work and victories for the growth of the kingdom of Christ.

In HIS Service,

Carl and Michelle Gormley