

**DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS & FAMILY,****JULY 2023**

This past year, Jen had the opportunity to volunteer teaching Physics at Faith Academy, where 80% of the students are MK's [Missionary Kids]. Although some are American by citizenship, they were born here & have never been to the United States. When Jen found out that she had a couple students that have never had a S'MORE, she knew that she had to make things right. A couple mallows fell on the floor & when she told the kids not to eat those, the quote on the right was their response. haha!

There are many common bonds shared by Missionaries & MK's. We understand that finding ourselves in scary/survival situations is pretty much inevitable. In the last 2 months, we have had multiple close calls with our safety. From being chased off the road by 2 huge carabao, crossing over 2 rivers, driving the scariest "road" in our lives, to being stung by jellyfish, it was all worth it to get to the tribal groups that God has laid on our hearts. [1st picture on the right]

The Iraya [EE-Rah'-Yah: 1 of the 7 indigenous tribal groups found on the island of Mindoro] Tribe have multiple villages scattered along the northwest part of Mindoro. [Pictured above] Some of their villages are accessible by land (SUV/ATV & travel by foot), but others are only able to be reached by boat (unless you trek multiple days through the jungle & mountain by foot, also needing a guide).

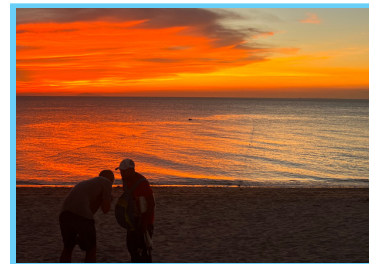
We were able to find some land for sale right next to the tribe. (Land among this village is not for sale as it is government owned.) Please pray that we are able to negotiate a great deal on this property & that the purchase goes smoothly. It is mountainous, needing to be developed, & has no electricity or water. We are excited about our first Building Project!

PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS

1. 10 people accepted Christ recently & 6 of them were baptized last week! The baptismal service was done publicly in the ocean & people who were passing by witnessed the testimony of these believers. This opened the door for Tommy to share the gospel with another young man who was there at the same time & he also accepted Jesus! [2nd picture on the right]
2. Mang Rafino (who we introduced in our previous update) is getting baptized this Sunday!
3. We have a meeting planned with multiple Katutubo [Kah-tooh-tooh'-boh': indigenous] Pastors next week. Please pray that we are able to learn more & gain more insight about cultural/tribal practices that can sometimes be a barrier when sharing the gospel to Filipino Natives whose beliefs are steeped in tradition & animism.
4. We helped host a 62-person missions team recently. Tommy helped with preaching, Jen with their medical portion & the girls sang in their children/youth choir.

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Are we even missionaries if we can't survive eating a dirty marshmallow?

**In His Service,**

Tom Jen Lucy Aleena Ellie

Tom, Jen, Lucy, Aleena, & Ellie Behman

THE NUMBERS

**MINDORO
BUILDING
PROJECT**

**10 PERCENTAGE OF
GOAL**

**MISSION BOARD:**

Baptist International
Missions, Inc
PO Box 9
Harrison, TN 37341
Account #1631

SENDING CHURCH:

Parkview Baptist Church
Pastor Steve Brown
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