

Sabado Family Newsletter (January & February 2010)



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BLESSINGS & OPPORTUNITIES OF 2010

To all our dear friends and wonderful supporters, greetings from the Republic of the Philippines! We hope that every one of you is feeling good and doing great as the new year unfolds. Our awesome God has once again blessed us a great new year as He continues to enrich our lives with more blessings and opportunities. The start of 2010 is promising for us as we look forward to a year that offers a lot of great things regarding our work here in spreading the gospel and providing Christian education. Thank you so much for bearing with us as we continue to work hand in hand for Christ's cause.

It's been a while since you've heard from us but rest assured that every one in our family is doing fine as well as our work here. The only thing that was not was our laptop that we depended on for our work and important files. It just went dead and then the computer we have been using for years had been running slow, showing signs of old age. Also early this year, we have moved to a new house conveniently located closer to the LCC property in Tagpuro. This is a great relief for us as price of gasoline keep on increasing almost every week. Another good thing about our new place is that it has a small yard which is viable for a small vegetable garden. Still overwhelming us is another wonderful news that after more than six months of dealing with a grueling-kind-of-pregnancy, my wife and I, together with our two daughters, are all excited to welcome another baby girl in our family in April, Lord willing.

DRY SEASON



Severe drought affecting ricelands

After a series of storms, typhoons and floods that we have experienced late last year, our country is facing again another terrible weather condition known as "El Niño" or dry season. Most of the rice fields and varieties of plantations in the north have gone to waste due to severe drought, thus affecting our

economy. Some farm animals have died due to some kind of disease brought about by such phenomenon. The water level of some of the water dams that are supplying water to household consumers has decreased and large cities like Manila have imposed a scheduling of water supply in different areas. Down south, our countrymen get power interruptions for as long as 12 hours a day as Mindanao's source of electricity is derived solely from water energy.

Here in our region, we are blessed that we experience occasional rain despite the hot and steamy weather condition. Please continue to pray for us and our nation as we are continuously bombarded in every direction by different kinds of struggles that are sometimes within divine control.

COLLEGE NIGHT

One very interesting activity we held in February was our first annual college night. The students had a wonderful time engaging themselves in their search for “Mr. & Ms. LCC” in recognition of outstanding academic performances and exceptional talents and personalities among the students. The teachers of course served as judges for this fun-filled event. Also to jumpstart the year, we have continued with our basketball tournament which aims not only to enhance skills but most importantly to strengthen the bond and good fellowship among faculty and students.

MUCH WORK AWAITS LCC

Right now, we are preparing and anticipating the transfer of location and operation of two important learning facilities under our charge: LCC to its permanent and owned property in Tagpuro wherein construction of the multipurpose building is on going, and Small Beginnings Preschool from its rented place to the premises of the Utap Road Church of Christ. We were absolutely happy that the elders agreed to let us use the facilities of the church building for the preschool.

Now with the absence of too much rain, we are hoping and praying that the construction of the main building will continue to progress in time for the school opening in June. In addition to that, a dormitory is being constructed on a hillside with the help of a trustworthy and fine brother from Mactan Church of Christ in Cebu, Marvin Osano, who is joining our team to provide his skills and knowledge as an engineer-contractor.



Halfway done school dormitory



The number of our students is expected to increase next school opening. We are so thankful that the ricefield within the scope of LCC property brings great advantage to us. Rice is a staple part of our every meal and if we can produce our own, this is quite a big help on our everyday food expenses. The farmer we hired has started cultivating the land since late last year in time for the rainy season. But now that the dry season continued to get worse, we are just hoping and praying that we can gather enough harvest within the next two months.

Despite this, we are still blessed that some of our crops like coconut, banana and some other vegetables are still capable of growing.

With this on going construction of LCC multipurpose building, paperwork never seems to end. Together with Bro. Lequin, one of the elders here in our local church, my daily routine for weeks after classes has included going to the City Engineers' Office and to the construction site in Tagpuro. The office of the City Engineers requires accomplishment report in almost every detail of the building construction. We cannot complain because here in our country this is how we operate.

Brethren, we would like to request your special prayers in this crucial and vital phase that LCC workforce is undertaking right now. We believe that God is putting us to the test this time. We have become victims of a fraudulent activity by one of the contractors of our building. We have discovered through one of our engineers that said contractor was using substandard materials in part of the construction of the building and was using some of the funds for his own use. His refusal to acknowledge such wrongdoings despite strong evidences left LCC with no option but to terminate his contract and take legal action by hiring a lawyer to help us in this matter. He then resorted to making threats of violence to LCC and having his policemen friends be seen in the construction site to pose threat on our workers. He mellowed down when we went to higher authorities and engaged the services of a security agency that has provided us with two armed security guards on the site to protect our workers from any possible harm and threat. We truly believe that through your prayers and His guidance, we will overcome this great trial.

Once again, we thank you for your wonderful support of love, encouragement, prayers and monthly contributions toward our mission work here in the Philippines. We are constantly reminded by the great sacrifice you all have invested in order to help us seek the lost through educating and training young men and women to be messengers of the Good News of Salvation. Thank you very much and we pray God's bountiful blessings be upon each and every one of you for all your tireless effort for His glory.



Building columns finally erected after successive heavy rains



Making our own hollow blocks