

Here in the National Capital Region of the Philippines (Metro Manila), we still have a curfew of 8PM, and we're not allowed to be outside our house. We have shifted from strict to firm in our quarantine guidelines.

Despite all this, there are some amazing and great things happening in our churches. We have 50 churches that are planted and partnered with Global Surge. We are spending time meeting, praying and coaching regularly. From the very beginning of the shutdown, Mid-March, some of the stories are getting back are amazing!

Pastor Levi here told me that the tricycle drivers (Motorcycle with a side-car for public transportation) drove past his house and his church for years but never gave the church a second thought. Well, during the Enhanced Community Quarantine we've been under has not allowed for any of them to operate. Effectively making them jobless. So, Pastor Levi reached out and approached them and said, "Hey, I wanted to help you out because you're out of work and we would like to give you some things that may really help you this time." So, he gave them food, a Bible, some gospel tracks and talked with them. Now, more than ever before, he has a new opportunity to share the Gospel with them.

Another Pastor nearby went to one of our local city jails and served the inmates. Commonly in the Philippines, if you don't have family coming in to give you food, the system is not set-up to feed you. Pastor Roger has been there making sure that these guys have been fed physically and also spiritually.

Pastor Chris told me just a couple of weeks ago, "...Just this week, we have had 40 neighbors get saved through giving relief. We now have a better relationship with our neighbors near our church unlike before." He said that he is sure that his church will grow when all things loosen up and we can hold physical services.

Currently we don't have the freedom to come together for corporate worship. Things are starting to shift and the government is trying to loosen up some regulations here in the Philippines and God is doing amazing things!

In many of our churches, reports have come in that dozens are getting saved. Some churches, they're seeing 50, 80 or over a hundred making professions of Faith. As things go on, Pastors here have strategically found ways of how to appreciate the true value of their volunteers. They have seen their volunteers value differently and found ways how to help and to serve their community.

So as of this point, we have served over 7,000 families and over 2,000 people have made professions of faith, this is really encouraging! Things aren't easy, there are still restrictions that we're seeing.

For those who are praying for us, and putting us on the top of your prayer list, and praying for my family, we really appreciate you! We have seen the effects of your prayers. We have seen great doors of opportunities opened, we have seen souls saved. We have spent time not only with our families but also with our ministries digitally. In the past several weeks, I've been able to do more coaching and training with our Small Group Ministries and it has been great!

Your prayers are really effective. For those who are giving financially, I got to thank you as well. Some of you have just started partnering within the past couple of months, some of you a long time, multi-year partners with us. Your investment has really laid the groundwork for us, especially for the long-term connections.

Would you continue to pray for our country, for our government, for our Department of Health here in the Philippines, also with the governments working with our churches in Bangkok as well as Phnom Penh, and the Pastors who are working there. Please include us on your prayer list. If you keep a picture of us in your fridge and as you walk by and grab some cookies, think of me and my family, and continue praying for us.

Blessings,

Luke, Kelly, Scott, Everett, & Virginia Lyons