



PHILIPPINES

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Dear Friends,

As we hear about the unbelievable amount of “snowfall” covering large areas back home, I marvel at the stark contrast we’re going through as the Philippines experiences our early summer. Compared to the series of storms I shared about in my last letter, we have been weathering hot days and are in dire need of rain. There has been news of possible water shortages and looming brown outs which may be bad considering the upcoming national elections. Please pray for political stability and the salvation of the Filipinos.

Life remains busy as we near the end of yet another school year - time truly flies when you're having fun. It has been an exciting year as I continue to help nurture ladies and school children as Single Ladies SS teacher and School Administrator. Briefly, let me update you on what your prayers have helped achieve.

Lighthouse held a Crossroads Youth Convention at the end of December. Pastor Robbie Asuncion heads this up. Youth from churches all over the Metro Manila attended several sessions dealing with issues that young people are facing. Over 250 youth attended this year.

On Jan 26-29, the Junior SOT (School of Tomorrow) Convention was held with twenty of our students taking part in the Academics, Sports, Arts, Speech, and Bible Bowl competition. We had two first place winners and others who won medals and placed in the events.

The church just celebrated its 20th anniversary. It was an enjoyable day with many former members attending. Pastor Dennis Potts spoke for us on Sunday morning and Pastor Livioco and his family provided beautiful music and preaching for the evening service. The Lord gave a clear cool day for the outdoor meal later that night.

I appreciated the opportunity to speak at a Ladies Fellowship in the remote place of *Bulacan* last January, where over 250 ladies from 19 churches attended. I spoke on Timeless Treasures. These ladies were a blessing to me, and it was a very enjoyable day.

It was also a privilege to visit and speak twice to a group of ladies in Gospel Light Baptist Church, where I served for about seventeen years, during their “*Balikabataan*”(back to youth) Single Ladies Outing (Nov '09); and one Sunday afternoon (Jan '10), during their Ladies Missionary Prayer Group meeting. Several of these ladies were in my S.S. class over 20 years ago. It was so nice seeing them again and catching up with their lives.

Two weeks ago, I also taught at a “Ladies Ministry” class at Bob Jones Memorial Bible Institute. Some of these ladies are going out full time as missionaries and the others are just taking classes to help them grow spiritually. We cover a variety of topics that single ladies face as they work in diverse areas and under various Pastors. What a privilege it was to share the things the Lord has taught me here in my mission field.

Once more, may I request your prayers for the following:

- (1) Quarterly school program on March 21 when the students will showcase our school in the various music and speaking competitions. One of our former students will be preaching.
 - (2) The commencement exercise on March 25th. Seven students will graduate this year from high school, and five students will graduate from elementary to the high school level.
 - (3) Upcoming church/school building program to help expand our classroom capacity, add needed computer and chemistry labs etc., and a reworked canteen area. Plans have been drawn up, and hopefully construction will begin soon.
 - (4) Continue to pray for the teachers and the students. Many of the young ones are still not saved.
- Finally, keep on praying for me as I carry on ministering both in church and in school.

Yours truly,

Brenda Garren