

Bearing Fruit That Remains

January–March 2012



Brenda Hager

*That ye should go
and bring forth fruit,
and that your fruit
should remain . . .*

John 15:16

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Dear Church Families and Friends,

Belated New Year's greetings for 2012—may you have a prosperous year in the work of the Lord.

Several months have lapsed since I sent my last mailing to my general prayer partners. Please bear with me for the delay. I will now endeavor to give you the highlights from the previous year.

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Thank you so much for your continued prayers for Pastor Jesse Booc. He has made great strides in his recovery from his stroke. He is back in the pulpit now and able to stand through most of his sermons, facing less dizziness and able to travel short distances.

Our church vehicle has now been sold, and we are continuing to raise funds to buy a newer second-hand vehicle. Christmas is a perfect example of the need for the vehicle. Children came from our five outreaches to our children's Christmas fellowship, making a total of 132 children to transport without a vehicle.

In my outreach alone, we had 48 children. I nearly panicked—traffic was heavy, and my little Vios could hold ten kids each trip. I would have had to make five trips back and forth with each trip taking around an hour. I devised a plan to take the kids by groups up to the highway and put them on public transportation, but every jeepney passing by was full to capacity. The police asked if I had a problem. After I explained the need, a jeepney passed by with no passengers. The police flagged him down and asked if he would be willing to take the children to the church. He agreed for 500 pesos a trip, and the police stopped the traffic so we could return to my house to pick up the rest of the 48 kids who were in my carport. Praise the Lord, the driver agreed to return at 4 p.m. and pick up the children. When I gave him the additional 500 pesos for the return trip, he said it was too much and gave me back 300. So we made it on time, everyone enjoyed the fellowship, and I enjoyed a discounted fare as well. God was indeed in control.

Praise the Lord also for the good DVBS and youth missions trip to Romblon. I am also thankful for a wonderfully presented cantata, which beautifully presented the plan of salvation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2012

- February 12—Bethany Bible Believers' Church's 13th anniversary celebration. The choir will present a mini-concert that day. Work is now ongoing to repair rain damage to the church roof and ceiling above the pulpit.
- April 1—Graduation recognition.
- April 2—The Espinol-Rollon wedding.
- The week of April 9—DVBS.
- April 10–21—Youth camp.
- May 12—Mother-daughter banquet.
- May 10–19—Junior camp.
- May 25—Church overnight retreat.
- June 12—Sportsfest.
- June 15—Father-son banquet.

Young Achievers will meet every two months until we have a vehicle to transport the children. In addition to these activities, I will soon be starting a ladies' strengthening Bible study and reviving our ladies' group activities. I need prayer for wisdom to know how to meet all the ladies' various needs.

On July 2, I will begin my furlough, which will last an undetermined amount of time, perhaps a short one.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Resolution of health issues resulting from a bout with food poisoning.
- The effectiveness of each of the above-mentioned programs—attendance of visitors and salvation of souls.
- A renewed vision among our people for the souls of the lost.
- Faithfulness of our people in attendance and serving the Lord.
- Restoration of some who have fallen away and their return to their first love.
- Growth of our vehicle fund so we can purchase another vehicle that is so definitely needed in the ministry.
- The writing of curriculum for the junior camp.
- A greater burden among our church family to support the ministry and to purchase land on which to build.

Your servant in the harvest,

Brenda Hager

in Tagaytay City, Philippines