

Some Difficulties

The last few months have been very tiring for us due to the different battles we faced mostly in relationships. The month started with a big thread that could have split our church. Our Pastor Bogel was hurt through some things and almost left the church with a big part of the church members. But through God's grace and help and prayers of others we were able to solve the difficulties and the relationships are in a healing process now. Praise God. One of our staff members, Chungran (Chunghee's sister), who has worked with us for many years, now has felt that her work among the Badjao in Cebu is finished and that she want to move on to another Badjao community where there is no missionary. Although we are glad for her to take on another Badjao community, it came at a difficult time when we thought that we could rely on her to take over the ministry when we leave for a year of home ministry in June. This complicated our plans to leave dramatically.

One of the Badjao customs that we still struggle with in the church is the issue of divorce. Children usually get married through arranged marriages. When it comes to divorce, they also get divorced often based on the parents feelings. For example, if the wife offends the mother-in-law and the mother-in-law decides that they should divorce, they have to divorce even if they still love one another. One of the leaders in our church, Jaman, and his wife, Lorena, are going through a similar struggle. In this case, a brother and sister married with another brother and sister. The parents and the other couple are not Christians. The other couple had a major fight and decided to divorce. The parents of Lorena now want to force them now to divorce also, but Jaman and Lorena do not want to divorce. If they keep on staying here in Cebu, Lorena's family will kidnap her and force them to divorce. So Jaman and Lorena secretly ran away to another island that is far away. This is very difficult because Jaman is also one of our main leaders on the farm and he will be greatly missed there.

Leaders Training

Our Lay Leader training went very well, although Pastor Bogel did not attend it this time. It was also a good time to unite the lay leaders and teach them important principles during this time. We invited another Philippino pastor, Pastor Mark, who also has been working with the Badjao for many years, to do the training, and he did very well.

Sponsoring Program

We are now at the last 100 meters of the 800-meter race in the sponsorship program. This is the most difficult time. There is still one month of school left, but many of the students are too restless and tired. It is hard to keep them in school and to control them. Many students quit during this time. Please pray for them to continue.

Mango Farm

We made our first official harvest of cucumbers that we planted the second week of March (only 10 kg), but we are grateful to God for this harvest. We have two big needs on the farm. The first is water. We have had lots of rain, more than usual, but we have not found water at two places where we have drilled. Without water it will be really hard to develop the farm more. Please pray that we will soon find water and that we will drill at the right place this time. Secondly we need a tractor to plow the land. We have been relying on two carabaos (Philippine water buffalo), but they cannot do the work because it takes too long and the land is too big.

Badjao Relocation Project.

I am still not able to share the good news that the government will start now with the relocation. There are only a few small details that we need to sort out now but the rest is a go. We have also purchased a big banka (outrigger) that we will use for this project for \$2000 relying on a promise of \$900 for this boat (we borrowed the money from another fund praying that God will supply the rest). But now the promise did not materialize. The boat still needs a few repairs but it looks ok.

The relocation project is a joint project between The City of Cebu (who is the main sponsor), the city of Gordova (where the Badjao will be relocated) three other non-government agencies of which we are one. Our commitment in this whole project involves the following:

5 Badjao houses at US\$800 per house	\$3,200.00
Reclamation of 1000 m ² for the church and school	\$13,000.00
Rebuilding of church and school	\$ 35,000.00
Boat	\$2,000.00
Total	\$52,200.00

At present we have less than half of what we need for this project. This is a big step of faith for us. Please pray for it.

Prayer requests

1. Pray for Bogel for peace in his heart.
2. Pray for Jaman and his wife Lorena and the other families to resolve the problem.
3. Pray for our next lay leaders training from March 27 – 31.
4. Pray for the students to finish the last leg of school.
5. Pray for our farm for water and a tractor.
6. Pray for our needs regarding the relocation of the Badjao people.