

REPORT FOR APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2020

Dear Brother and Sister Buckland,

We hope you are in good health and that all is well where you are. We enjoyed reading the tremendous report of ongoing revival throughout the Pacific Region during this pandemic. Becky and I are safe and virus free. The Philippines has been under varying degrees of quarantine since the middle of March. We haven't been able to travel or meet for church services. Our desires are to continue in good health, stay connected with the Deaf community, help UPC-Tagaytay and find ways to connect with people in our local area.

Life has been relatively simple the past three months. Tom obtained a quarantine pass that allowed him to go out for groceries and prescriptions. Having a car has been a great blessing. For two months, there was no public transportation allowed to operate. Thankfully, Tagaytay has had less than 10 cases of COVID reported. The fitness centers are closed so we had to find other ways to exercise. Becky has been walking 2 miles each day and perfecting her culinary skills. I have been walking an average of 7 miles a day. Five miles each morning. I need the extra miles, because of Becky's culinary skills. The quarantine, coupled with our walking, have allowed us to make friends with our neighbors. When restrictions are lifted, we plan to have a neighborhood potluck.

Becky has kept in contact with all of our Deaf friends. She has found Bible studies and services online, that are interpreted, and shared them on our messenger accounts. Also, she has shared ASL/FSL websites and sign language lessons with our interpreters. The FSL classes have been discontinued and we don't have a date for them to resume. We have been watching online services from the U.S. and here. We have helped UPC-Tagaytay by doing nine online midweek services. Becky has handled the music and worship songs and I did the Bible studies. The classes at ACTS Bible College were discontinued with only two weeks remaining. I was able to complete online final exams and have the test answers emailed to me. I sent the final grades to the school the last week of May.

UPC-Tagaytay started construction of their new church at the end of February, but had to stop working the third week of March. Construction resumed around the middle of May when some restrictions were removed. It is amazing to me seeing the men build without any heavy equipment or tools. The days I have been able to help were exhausting. Becky has been cooking once a week for the men working at the church. This includes the morning and afternoon merienda (snack) and lunch for 8-10 workers.

We are extremely grateful to all of you who are providing AIM support. Especially, during these difficult times. We pray God's blessings be upon all of you.

Yours in Christ,

Tom and Becky James