



Beth Wier

PHILIPPINES



And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness...

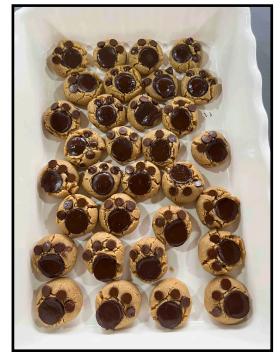
Isaiah 58:10

Dear friends,

February 2024

Hello again from the Philippines! I hope this finds you well. We are doing well here, but our schedules continue to be quite intense! (Hence, this newsletter is getting to you VERY late...!) ☺ We are in an interesting season of having VERY little staff, right after making our big move of the Hope House kids to the Hope For All Children property! But I believe that the Lord is really at work during this time, and we are very hopeful and excited for what He is doing and what He will bring out of it!

As I mentioned last month, we moved the Hope House kiddos to their (AMAZING!) new house on the Hope For All Children property the week before Christmas. We celebrated Christmas in the new house and had a great time! We did do our annual cookie baking, but this year, because of all of the craziness with moving, we baked on New Year's Day! (So they were more like New Year's cookies than Christmas cookies...) ☺ We still enjoyed it, and the girls gave cookies to the other families and kids in our community, (and of course, enjoyed some themselves!). ☺ This year, I had run across a variation of one of the types of cookies we usually do, and we did a little different version that looked like a paw print! The girls really enjoyed making those, and it was kind of a tribute to our beloved dog, Macy, who we lost in September. ☺ We are still missing her!



New Year's Cookies!!



Maya with one of our little guys

Also, our other dog, Maya, has been having some health problems in the last several months! ☺ Out of the blue, a little more than a month after Macy passed away, Maya started having some problems moving around. The vet has been doing some treatments on her and actually let her stay at his clinic in Davao for a while so that we wouldn't have to drive her back and forth. For a while, she was actually having trouble walking and putting weight on her back legs, but she has been improving, and we are hopeful that she will fully recover! Please join us in praying that she will recover quickly!

We celebrated several birthdays recently as well. One of the girls who came to us last June celebrated her 7th birthday last month. She was VERY cute opening her gifts and celebrating her birthday for the first time at the Hope House. Now that we have a lot of kiddos, it can be hard for the little ones to wait for their birthdays to come when they are celebrating all of the other kids' birthdays throughout the year! ☺ So she was very excited to finally get to celebrate HER birthday! It was the first birthday we celebrated in the new house too, so that was a lot of fun. One of our little guys especially liked the cake, as you can see from this picture of him licking the plate...! ☺



Our newest 17-year-old with a new book and study guide for her birthday

We celebrated another birthday before the month was over. It was the birthday of the youngest of the first three sisters that came to us in 2016. She turned 17 years old!! She was 9 when she came to us. It is SO hard to believe that the youngest of our first three girls is now 17! Good thing the rest of us are not getting older!! (Haha — I wish!) ☺



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In between our two girls' birthdays, we celebrated a special birthday of our team leader, Mike. He turned 50, and Hope For All Children gave him a surprise party! ☺ It was a lot of fun, and we were blessed to be able to celebrate his big day AND to be able to actually keep it a surprise! (As you might imagine, it's quite a challenge to pull off surprises with so many little ones!! They tend to be very curious and pass on lots of information!) ☺

Speaking of Mike, I wanted to take this opportunity to honor him and his wife Jeannette. They are amazing leaders, and they give so selflessly to our team and to the Hope For All Children community. Mike is really responsible for the building of the new Hope House,

and it is an absolutely beautiful building and an incredible gift to us and the Hope House kids. Mike oversaw all of the construction of the home. Our teammate Tony worked with him when he was in the Philippines, and we have had a crew of Filipinos helping with the construction, but Mike has been the main one overseeing and working on the house. (THANK YOU, Mike!! ☺) I also wanted to share something special about the house. When Mike was building it, he put two large areas for paintings on the walls in the living room. So, when people walk in the front door of the Hope House, one of the first things they see is those two walls with paintings. Mike asked the Hope For All Children community to submit possible ideas for those walls, and we chose the ones we felt the Lord was leading us to. One of the paintings is based on a word that Mike received from the Lord several years ago when the idea of the ministry of Hope For All Children was first planted in his heart. The other is a representation of the Hope House, which is a girl with her arms raised and chains falling off of her. ☺ The Destiny Home girls (the former Hope House residents who are now at least 18 years old and are living in our transition home) are the ones who painted both paintings, and they did an AMAZING job! It's wonderful to have these reminders before us all the time of the faithfulness of the Lord and His heart for restoration!



Our two AMAZING paintings!



One of our little ones getting treated with lice shampoo

We were so happy to have our friend Angela here with us again last month. She is SUCH a blessing when she is here, and this time, she helped us with a special project...lice shampooing!! ☺⊗ It came to my attention (in an unfortunate way...) that some of the kids had lice again! (Or still?!) Ugh! So, I went on a mission to eradicate lice from the Hope House. ☺ (And from me!) Yes, I unfortunately got lice again... ☺ This is the second time I have had it, and again, it was SO itchy that it was actually a relief to find out that I had it. (If I didn't have lice, I would have thought something was seriously wrong with my scalp!!) I'm really happy to say that I think that our efforts were successful! Angela and Crystal were really amazing with helping to wash ALL of the kids' bedding, towels, etc. We are trying to be vigilant and make sure we continue to be a lice-free zone! ☺

For this month's cultural note, I thought I would share about something that I have often found interesting in the Philippines. Several years ago, I noticed at the Hope House that when the staff would prepare the meals, they would often prepare them quite a bit in advance and have all of the food ready well before the actual time of the meal. Even when we had a much smaller number of girls, I noticed that some of the house moms would start cooking before 5am for our 7am breakfast and at 10am for our noon lunch. Overall, with all of the staff who have cooked at the Hope House, I would say that very consistently, the meals are ready early — sometimes up to an hour before the meal will be served! The interesting thing is that no one seems to mind at all (or even notice!) that the food has been sitting for a long time (most likely getting cold)! It's a good thing that rice seems to stay hot for quite a while!! ☺ (As you may remember, rice is a part of every meal in the Philippines — breakfast, lunch, and dinner!)

Many blessings!
Beth