

# *the Gormleys*

MISSIONARIES TO THE PHILIPPINES

DECEMBER 2024



**Dear Pastor and Ministry Partners,**

As I reflect on this first winter furlough since 2012, I find myself filled with so much gratitude. It's been a season of deep thankfulness for the many ways God has worked in our lives. I'm overjoyed to see my older brother and his wife faithfully serving the Lord, as well as my younger sister and her husband, fulfilling His promises in Psalm 127:1-5. It all started in 1985, when God began to change our lives, after coming to know Jesus as our savior; this was the direct result of the faithful prayers and support of churches that partnered with Rich Abney and then James Shaw, as missionaries to the Philippines, that the gospel was brought to us at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Angeles City, Philippines. My life, and the lives of my siblings, were forever changed, and I have never been the same. The joy, peace, and satisfaction I now experience are gifts from the Lord.

This time has also given me the blessing of visiting my daughters. I've been able to spend time with Kayla in Augusta, Georgia, Courtney and her husband Younes in Astoria, New York, Kassie and Conner in Omaha, Nebraska, and to welcome Chloe, who is temporarily staying with Kassie while she determines where she will start her journey, living independently in America. My heart overflows with gratitude for God's goodness to our kids as they are building their own lives here in America. Michelle and I are proud of the young women they have become and look forward to all that God has planned for their lives and families. Walking through this journey of parenting adult children has been bittersweet; living half way around the world from our kids has not been easy, but with the joy of seeing them happy, successful and loving Jesus is a blessing.

I was also able to spend time with my first pastor Jim Shaw, and his family, faithful servants of God. While I can't help but be in awe of the truth found in Isaiah 51:1, which says, "Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged." As we continue on this journey with Him, He is shaping us into the image of our Savior (Romans 8:29; Philippians 1:6). Just as Abraham and Sarah experienced the heritage of faith, we too are called to invite others into the family of God.

This season has also provided an unexpected blessing: more time to visit Michelle's family in Davison, Michigan. After not seeing my mother-in-law and grandmother-in-law for eight years, it was a joy to rekindle precious memories and create new ones to cherish. While there, it was a blessing to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones at our home church, First Baptist Church of Goodrich. Preaching there and reflecting on God's abundant blessings in the Philippines was such a refreshing experience. I'm so thankful to Pastor Ben Gonzales and his family for their warm hospitality and love. It's also been such a blessing to spend time with our sending church, Grace Baptist Church in Brunswick, Ohio, and with Pastors Rick Powers, Dave Liuzzo, and Glenn Gilley. Their steadfast love, compassion, and years of service to the Lord have been such an encouragement to me.

While I've been away, our ministries in the Philippines have continued to grow and flourish by God's grace. Pastor Denver Florece and his wife Angeli have stepped in to oversee the church while I am gone and I am grateful for their presence and dedication to the ministry. They supervised the Christmas celebration for our 3 neighborhood Bible clubs last Saturday where they saw an overall 125 in attendance. While the Bible clubs were being managed by the young people, the adults were able to extend friendship to the parents and other onlookers, offering them a gift bag of groceries that would provide a nice Christmas celebration. This coming Saturday we will continue to reach out to our surrounding community by delivering 100 gift bags of groceries as an expression of our friendship to the community and to just let our neighbors know that we are here to serve and minister to them.

Michelle has remained in San Jose del Monte, keeping an extremely busy schedule with Bahay Sibol, processing kids, caring for the baby with special medical needs and overseeing several construction projects that are ongoing. In addition, she is handling the adoption paperwork for Carlo and Luis, which has been riddled with delays in the courts. But despite the challenge, there is a glimmer of hope and a faint light at the end of the long tunnel; she is hopeful that the papers will be accomplished and the family will be able to travel all together by summer of 2024.

We are so grateful for God's provision and the many ways He has sustained these ministries and our family over these many years. Thank you for your continued prayers and support, it is because of partners like you that we can continue this work, and we praise God for each of you.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Carl Gormley