



THE MARTINS
Your Missionaries in the Philippines

PHILIPPINES

March-April, 2019

Dear Friends:

In this prayer letter we want to share some testimonies from the "Help the Needy" program, give an update on the Radio Ministry, and give some prayer requests. We also want to share excerpts from testimonies of some workers who helped needy people during Christmas and also testimonies from some of the needy people who were helped. The first is of a worker:

"I want to thank God for giving me an opportunity to experience the unforgettable joy in helping needy people...our group gave toys and food to 100 children and shared them the plan of salvation, and to parents that bring children...I was so blessed for what I see. We had 10 gifts to give to the most needy in that place. Most were bedridden old person, blind, and crippled. Every time I look at them I was touched and feel sorry with them and thank God that no one of our family is like them. They are forsaken by their family and seems no one cared for them...One old crippled man was bed ridden and alone in a very small house like a doghouse. We sing Christmas song to him. He is amazed. He wants to know why we did it. He asked who we are and I tell him, 'We are here to help you and give you a gift, and most of all give you the gift of God.' I shared to him the plan of salvation and he received Christ as his Savior. These things that we experience is a great blessing. I cannot explain the joy in my heart. The joy that comes from God. The joy to see lonely people happy. That they feel and know that God loves them."



Food for the Christmas party



Prayer time

FIELD ADDRESS:

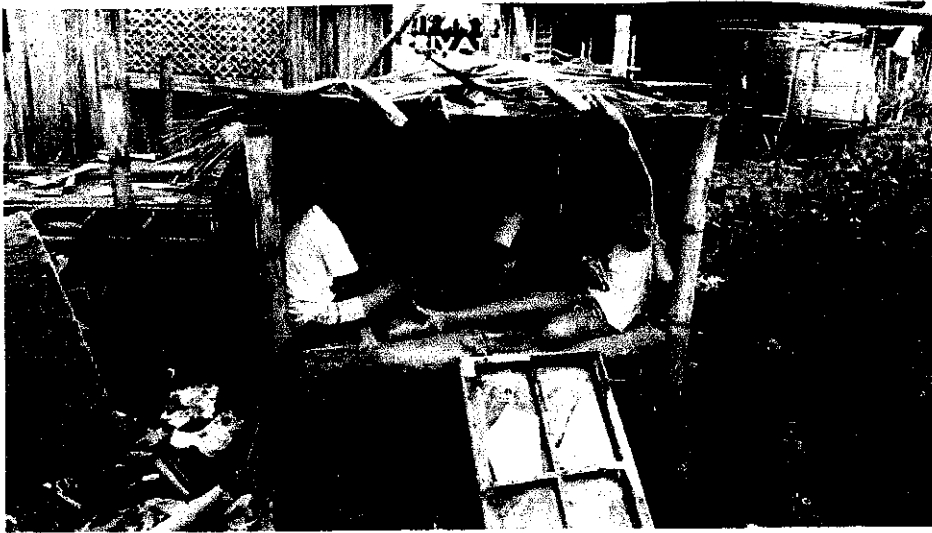
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It's hard to believe someone could live here

This one is from a fire victim: "Last August there was a fire that burned 40 house in our place, even mine. I was so discouraged. Me and my husband don't have a job. We stayed in the evacuation center (a daycare). Everyday I asked God 'Where can we get money to build our home?' Everyday I saw the other fire victims building their house and they asked why we don't start building. I said, 'If God will give us money we will.' Four months later God extended His grace and mercy by using some Bible students and staff to help us build our home. I want to thank God. We have new friends who love us and are willing to help us."

Anabel, one of our staff, took several senior citizens to Jollibee, a fast food place, for the first time in their life for her Help the Needy project. Here are some of their testimonies:



Invitation to receive Christ as Savior

"I was alone that day when Ma'am Anabel came to me and invited me to go to Jollibee. I suddenly felt my hunger when I heard that. I really gave a smile to myself. I felt I was so lucky that there's an angel coming to answer my stomach development because at that time I haven't ate my breakfast because we don't have food. God is good all the time!" Doro-79 years old

"I was so excited when I heard that Iloilo Baptist Church invited us senior citizens to go to Jollibee. At first I hesitate because it's hard for me. I only have one good eye but they insisted and said they would help me. I was so happy. When the food was served I tried to set it aside for me to bring home for dinner. Ma'am Anabel was surprised and told me to eat. I was ashamed but I want to keep the food for supper because I don't have money to buy for supper. I only eat once a day. I was happy when she gave me more food to bring home! I could never forget this moment! Thank you Lord! I know You love me so much!" Milagros-78 years old



The kids loved their toys!

"I was very happy that day we went to Jollibee. It was my first time. I felt so blessed. I can't explain the joy in my heart. When we entered the mall I felt I'm in America! It was so cold. I saw a very big

Christmas tree. I was so thankful to God that at my age I've been t Jollibee to enjoy a meal with fellow senior citizens. We're so thankful to Iloilo Baptist Church. They treated us very special—we've never experienced this with our family. We had our picture taken and were given a copy for our remembrance." Jovita-86 years old

"Ouch! I bumped my head on the glass door at Jollibee! I didn't mind. I'm so excited. We were like a kid. We enjoyed picture taking and saved food for our lunch—rice, chicken, juice, and ice cream. So delicious! I could never forget this day because it's my first time to eat at Jollibee. Thank you! This is the moment in my life that I felt so happy! God bless you!" Salvacion-76 years old

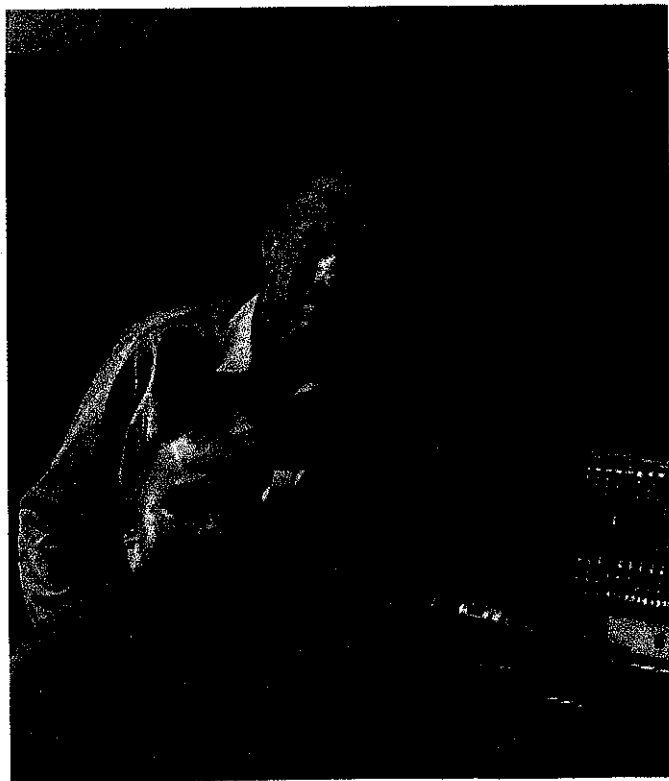
This past Christmas we located the 10 poorest, high-crime neighborhoods and had four activities. The first was a Christmas party for 100-200 children with toys, food, games, and preaching. The second event was taking a group of poor children or senior citizens to a fast food place. For almost all of these children or seniors, it was their first time to visit a McDonalds or Jollibee.

The third project was locating the poorest people in the 10 neighborhoods, and have Christmas caroling, gifts, and a Bible for them. Most were witnessed to as well. This includes the bedridden, the forgotten, the disabled and the homeless. The last project was picking out the 10 poorest children in each neighborhood and taking them to our annual street children's party. At this event we have 5-6 doctors who give free checkups to all the children, over 200 in all. Also a dental team from the Philippine Army came and did dental work for these children.

The most important part of this "Help the Needy" ministry is presenting the Gospel to these people and each year many receive the best gift they could ever receive—the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

RADIO MINISTRY

Gene Sharp, of Independent Baptist Media, was here in February to set up the equipment for a radio station in Paranaque, one of the main cities in Metro Manila. Paranaque is one of the most densely populated cities in the world, three times more people per square kilometer than even Iloilo City.



Bro. Sharp with Pastor Galicto in the new broadcast studio



Bro. Sharp working on the tower

One week from the day he arrived, Brother Sharp was able to get the station on the air for a test broadcast. We are hoping the National Telecommunications Commission will allow us to continue broadcasting. The Paranaque station is in the technical stage of their application and the last phase, the financial stage.

It is nearly impossible to get a frequency in Manila so this is an answer to prayer. Pastor Joseph Gallicto, who was a member of our church here in Iloilo more than 20 years ago, is the pastor who is overseeing the station in Paranaque.

While Brother Sharp was here we asked the pastors who he was planning to help set up stations on his next trip to come to Manila for a day so we could do some planning. It went very well as he taught them how to choose the best place for the studio and many other things in starting their stations. Brother Sharp is planning to come in the next few months with his family and set up 4-5 more stations in the following cities:

Paranaque, Manila (just completed)
Tagbilaran City, Bohol Island
Iligan City and Marawi City in Mindanao

Cebu City, Cebu Island
Dumaguete City, Negros Island
San Remio, Antique (town on the northern part of our island).

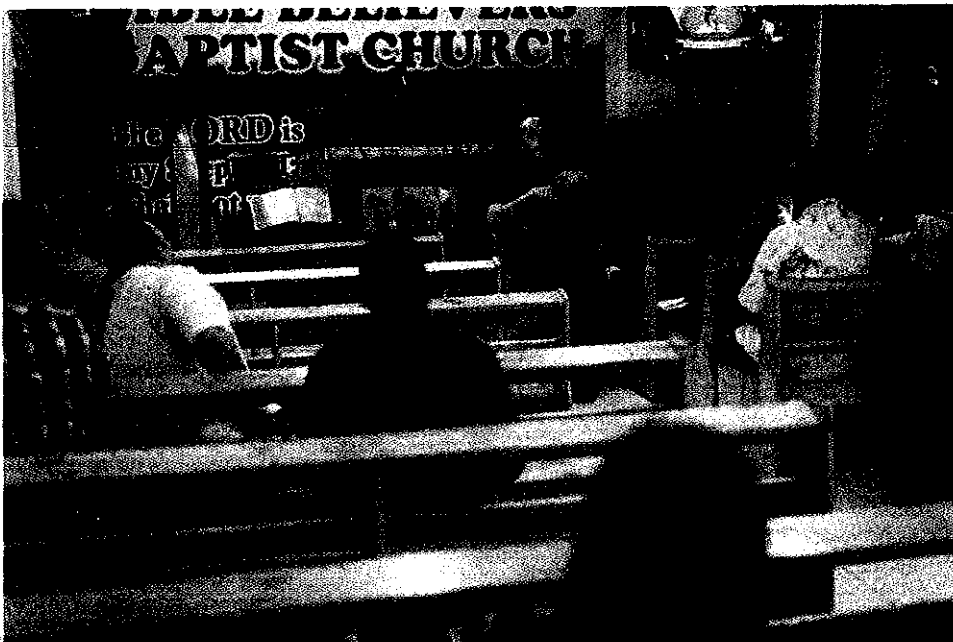
The station in San Remio, Antique is our first one in a small town. Brother Sharp taught me a lot of things I did not know that should be of much help in starting these stations and others in the future. While in Iloilo Brother Sharp put up a good broadband antenna at our station, which increases wattage quite a bit from the transmitter to the antenna. It will help us go further with a better signal at no extra cost in electricity.

Please pray for our upcoming Youth Conference and summer camps. Thank you for your prayers and financial assistance for the Lord's work here!

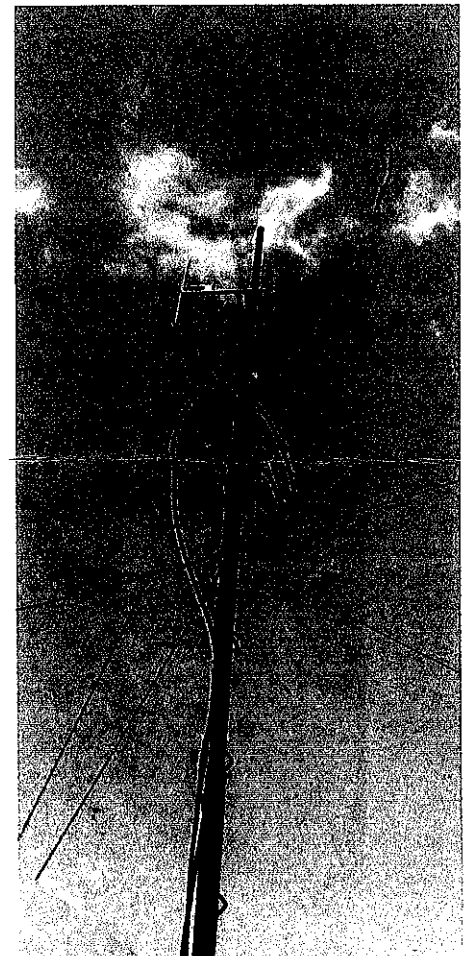
Sincerely in Christ,



Rick Martin



Bro. Sharp having a meeting with the pastors of potential radio stations



Bro. Sharp installing the new broadband antenna at IBC