



*...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint. - Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)*

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**March - April 2020**

## God's Plan

*In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.- Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)*

Last year, we made plans for 2020 ministry activities in Payatas & Cupang. One of that plan is to host the (GO) Global Outreach short term mission team from San Jose, California Church on the Hill (COH) for March 17-30, 2020. Logistics, plane tickets, hotel accommodations were all set. The GO Team are to participate at the Promise Land Christian School of Payatas Elementary Graduation of which eight (8) of our IM Child Sponsored children are graduating from 6th grades. The remaining activities included Women's Workshop and VBS in Cupang.

We planned to depart for the Philippines on March 1 to prepare for the Teams's arrival. However, there was an uneasiness in the heart of Mel due to the uncertainties of the rapidly evolving COVID19 in China. After much prayers and conversations with COH Mission Board/Team, we decided to cancel and reschedule for October 2020. An emergency global pandemic was proclaimed by WHO and the world went on lockdown in March!

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## Philippine Update

Well... here's our recent phone interviews/report from our Philippines ministry partners in Manila.

### LOCKDOWN

(Luzon Island where Manila is) since March 15 to April 30 until further notice.  
Metropolitan Manila has the highest population concentration in the whole Philippines.

### LOCKDOWN ( meant not being allowed outside the house premises )

For some who were caught away from their home when the lockdown was imposed, they're mandated to stay put where they are. Only one designated household member is allowed to perform essential activities like purchasing food. He/she is to present a certificate as family designee to the "Barangay tanod" (Village guard) who is

stationed per section to monitor/report activities of constituents. There are different numerous checkpoints, barricades and roving enforcers to go through

## **IMPACTS OF LOCKDOWN:**

### **Negatively**

1. Increased poverty/hunger: big percentage of Filipinos live on daily work income and with no emergency savings. Most business establishments operate on "no work no pay" basis.
2. Many families were temporarily separated
3. Living on cramped spaces in Metropolitan Manila, especially those that live in the squatters' (Informal Dwellers) area where there's 6-8 people at the least
4. The Philippine Government announced monetary and food assistance for the indigents; also some coming from the Department of Social Welfare and their LGUs (Local Governing Units). Distributing of Relief is supposed to be on a weekly basis. Our ministry partner in Payatas said they have received only once so far since the lockdown.
5. Schools will not open this June but tentatively set in August pending decrease of COVID-19 mortality/morbidity).
6. Philippine COVID-19 DOH update as of Monday April 13, 2020: total number of confirmed cases nationwide climbed to 4,932 includes 315 deaths 242 recoveries recorded.

### **Positively:**

1. Markedly decreased traffic and better air quality! Yay!!
2. Family togetherness
3. Heightened sensitivity/responsiveness towards each other's welfare. Despite limited finances, they help with whatever they could esp. to the elderlies.
4. PRAYERS!! Praying for one another, the nation, frontliners, for wisdom/direction for vaccines, for God to heal the land. Definitely there's deeper consciousness of God.

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## **Ministry Updates**

### **Payatas**

Pastor Erlindo with son David, Ana his wife, and their children are in Church/School/house on lockdown. Pastor Erlindo's wife Esterly with her daughter and son, Jonathan, his wife and 3 children are stranded in the province north of Manila when the lockdown was imposed. As per Ana, by God's grace the PLCC church members and ministry children are staying healthy. As in most barangays, the constituents are depending on government assistance for their food, though amongst themselves they look out for each other's needs

## Cupang

Violy, our ministry partner is in lockdown in Mendez town near Tagaytay with her sister and family; unable to commute back to her place in Metro Manila. She stays in touch with the people she ministers at Cupang Church via phone texting. The mother church HRCC, delivers food assistance to the church families at Cupang. There's one mother that said her husband was stranded at work and asked for food assistance for their small children of which the other members responded to their needs.

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## Family Updates

Resty & I are "hunkered down" here in Long Beach, California. The best place to be - in God's hands and with our daughters Jeanine and Jessi & family. With the "shelter in place" Jeanine decided to travel down here from Santa Clara to continue working from home and do essential errands for us. Our son, Karl, stayed in San Jose - working from home as his job requires him to stay closer to his work. We are blessed to have family dinners together more often as Jessi's family live a few blocks from where we live. We worship together every Sunday online and pray together. We pray as we wait on the Lord to unfold the future, to direct when it is safe to go back and continue our ministries in Payatas and Cupang.

Please continue to pray for the churches and the school in Payatas and Cupang that not only are their needs met during the lockdown but that their personal experience in Christ will grow deeply. Thank you too for including us in your prayers and the upcoming Philippines Mission Team and the IM Pastors, Lay Leaders and Women's Conference in October this year.

We pray that the Lord guard your health, hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, totally at peace because of His presence. We thank the Lord in each remembrance of you.

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*"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

*Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV*

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Blessings,

**RESTY & MEL ENGUERRA**

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