

SENDING CHURCH:

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Thank you for your prayers and support!

AMBER YINGLING GIVING HOPE TO THE HOPELESS IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS June 2024

Battered and Broken

As mentioned in my last prayer letter, I made the move to Pampanga this past May. The Lord has protected, provided, kept His promises to me. I am settling into my new surroundings; but, of course, I could use prayer for my continued adjustment. I am so thankful for Pastor Jeremy and Mrs. Kirstine Ferguson for giving me this opportunity to learn and observe their orphanage. I have already been able to spend time at the orphanage just getting to know some of the children. I am prayerfully seeking to build relationships. Please pray for the Lord to lead and guide me with wisdom to understand how I can be a blessing while I am here.

As I observe the orphanage, I cannot help but see the ugliness and sinfulness of this world. Every time I visit I leave with a heavy heart. To see and hear what people have done to these children is truly heartbreaking and makes me angry. No child deserves the circumstances these children have gone through. As a result of abuse and abandonment these children are left with brokenness and and the feeling of worthlessness. They are hopeless! I am praying that the Lord will open opportunities for me to be able help them find Hope in their darkness. Of course, that answer is Christ. He is the Comforter and will be a Father to the fatherless.

There are a variety of reasons why children end up at an orphanage. Some children come as true orphans with both mother and father passing away. There are also semiorphaned children; these are the ones with just one parent that has passed away. These children are often brought into custody by the government or willingly surrendered to the orphanage by a family member for the welfare of the child. Some of the children are not orphaned at all, but due to finances, abuse, or even abandonment they are also removed by the authorities or willingly surrendered by family. The orphanage also has children that are victims of active cases. They have been sexually abused and the perpetrator is still on trial or has not been caught. Sadly, this is the story for most of the girls. I often remind myself of Psalm 147:3, "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." I am praying that the Lord will give me opportunities to teach these children that they are brokenly beautiful, and that God loves them. God is the only one who can heal their heart and bind up their wounds!

BEAUTY FOR ASHES

I believe the Lord is leading me to share stories from these children in my prayer letters in order to help you know how to pray for orphans all over the world. The Lord gave me this idea on Father's Day. This Father's Day marked the 11th anniversary of my mom's passing. It was harder this year because it was on Father's Day of 2013 that she went home to be with the Lord.

As I looked for a seat in the packed church, I found myself sitting next to a young boy. He began to talk with me and ask me so many questions. When I mentioned that my



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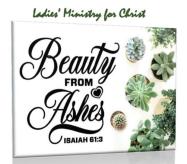
Batter and Broken, continued

mom passed away, he stopped asking questions, looked at me intently and said, "My mom passed away too!" Then he began to tell me <u>his</u> story. His mom had several men in her life. His siblings are all from different men. His biological dad is a drug addict and an alcoholic. When his mom passed away he was six. It was then his dad became more abusive. His dad abused him frequently and often until he was nine years old. He was brought to the orphanage, where he has been for the last seven years. As I listened to him tell about his abuse and his dad's drug habit, I could see the pain and grief in his eyes. I laid my hand on his shoulder and told him that I was sorry that this happened to him, but that I was happy that he was at the orphanage where he is safe and learning about God. I told him how thankful I was to meet him.

This young man helped me see the wisdom of God. I sincerely thanked the Lord for taking my mom to be with Him. Though my grief does not even compare to the heartache and pain of these children, it is a gift from the Lord that I, in a small way, can relate to them. I pray that the Lord will use me to be a blessing while I am here learning about the operations of this orphanage. Please pray that the Lord will open more doors for me to love these kids through Christ. Many children do not want to talk about their experiences. There are many behavioral issues; anger is one of them. Please pray that the Lord will heal their hearts and minds. Some children are so shattered that they do not want anything to do with the orphanage or the church. Only God can heal and restore.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for God's continued guidance as I learn and observe all aspects of orphanage ministry.
- Please pray for these children to know Christ as their personal Savior and live their lives to serve Him.
- Please pray for safety as I travel to Negros Oriental and Occidental for the *BIO Philippines Ladies' Ministry for Christ* quarterly fellowship on June 28. I will be returning on July 1. The Lord has given me the opportunity to be the key speaker for this event. Please pray that the Lord will help me to communicate exactly what He wants me to share with these ladies.
- Please continue to pray for my adjustment to Pampanga and the orphanage and that the Lord will make me a blessing.



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH PHILIPPINES, INC.

Speaker : Missionary Amber Yingling

KATUNGANUNZ CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP JUNE 29, 2024



"Looking for that blessed hope..." Titus 2:13