

## News from Shepherd's Home

Dear Shoreacres Family,

Warm greetings to you all from the Philippines. As the Corona Virus pandemic affects the whole world, we are into our 6th week of lockdown here in Manila. I'm thankful to be able with a pass (given to one member of each household to go for essential needs) to get through check points going to and from Shepherd's Home and my apartment.... getting temperature checks and sometimes a free car wash (disinfectant) along the way at the checkpoints. Also strange to have no traffic jams with jeepneys and buses not operating, and fewer cars. Apart from the hardship it has brought others, it has made getting around so much easier and faster!

Adela our house manager was at the home when the lockdown started so she has not been able to go home as she usually does on week-ends. That's been good for us although hard for her. Thank you for praying for her to stay well and get the rest she needs. Our other workers have not been able to come but still get their needed salaries through money transfer places. The moms that have had employment have also not been able to go to work, so all five of them have been quarantined in the home. They have done well in working together on their daily chores, looking after Angie and Shane our special children, and keeping their children happy and occupied. The latest is making tents and dress up clothes with our old sheets. They've also enjoyed learning and singing verses put to song by Steve Green on a CD, and continue daily devotions from ODB before breakfast, our weekly Bible study (presently in 1st Samuel), and "church" time in the home on Sundays. I am very thankful we have all stayed well!

We continue to pray for those who are sick or lost loved ones and frontline workers, as you do there as well, and the very vulnerable population here that have no work, thus no income to provide for their daily needs. Some help is coming from the government but this is very difficult, particularly in a city of over 12 million people. Many churches and other organizations are helping to provide for these people in various ways such as feeding programs and distributing food parcels, and we are grateful to be able to be helping some of our extended Shepherd's Home families and our local church people and the surrounding community who are in need. We do trust they will see this as God's provision for them, Christians encouraged, and unbelievers reached and influenced for the Lord in this very difficult and challenging time.

As I shared in my last news at the beginning of March, although now registered as an official non-government organization, we still need a new social worker and many documents to be prepared and submitted in order to get licensed with the department of social services. The future of the home is dependent on getting the time and necessary help to accomplish this, so your prayers are very much valued. This week we've been asked to take a 16 year old girl who is 7 months pregnant. We are waiting to see if the government will allow this to happen without being licensed yet. She is apparently in a desperate situation and no other shelter or home for her has been found.

It's been good to be getting some Wednesday and Sunday messages on line and it keeps you all in my thoughts and prayers as well. It is hard to "stay home", not seeing family and friends face to face and meeting together at the chapel. I am missing that as well here. May the Lord continue to encourage and sustain each of you in your specific situations as we know he is always with us... no need for "social distancing"! (Isaiah 41:10)

With many thanks as always for your support and prayers which again are so much valued,

Yours in His Love,

Sharon