

# Vessels of Mercy

April 2020

Bringing God's Mercy to the Nations

**“A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:9 NKJV**

## Update from Bob & Evelyn:

Evelyn and I were very blessed to join Bob and Darlene in Asia in March. We were excited to be able to return to Vietnam and the Philippines. We heard many good reports on the projects and ministry there although we were unable to visit some of them personally because our time was cut short due to the corona virus. Please continue to pray for the ministry of Vessels of Mercy and our partners in Asia.



Visiting some young adults we have cared for since they were toddlers at the orphanage

## God's Kingdom is not on Lockdown

Greetings from Michigan. Just 3 weeks ago we were in the Philippines with Dad and Mom. We planned to go full-steam ahead with our plans to travel to VietNam together and then Darlene and I planned to head on to Bangladesh and Nepal. “Planned to” is the key phrase there. Our plans were about to change! The day we arrived in VietNam things were unraveling in Hanoi and around the country because of the corona virus. At the same time that we were asking God for direction, we received news from Bangladesh that the government there was shutting meetings and travel down and not to come. So we all felt clear that the best course of action was to simply head back to the Philippines and resume ministry there. Well, it wasn't that simple! In the very short time that we were absent from the Philippines, the corona virus cases grew exponentially and the newspapers were reporting that the government was assembling 40,000 police and military to lockdown Manila by air, land, and sea. We were also informed that provincial areas were closed to travel as well. We

contacted Delta and found that they were offering free re-scheduling of return flights and felt it was a clear confirmation that the best course of action was to head home. We changed our tickets just ahead of the official lockdown announcement and flew out just ahead of it going into effect.

In retrospect, it is very clear that God was directing our steps. We are thankful for His direction. The Asian countries we work in are all in lockdown at this time. The Philippines is expected to be this way for a minimum of another month. What we did not expect was to come home and find a similar situation here!

Thankfully, these things do not take God by surprise. Last year Pastor Philip Thompson helped us get going on Zoom meetings with pastors in the Philippines. One of the blessings of the Internet is that we already have everything in place to stay connected and continue our work in Asia. We have been staying connected with national pastors through Zoom meetings and messaging.

Right now everyone is still hunkering down and riding out the storm; we are hearing of church members in the Philippines who are in a “no work - no food” situation and the churches are endeavoring to meet these needs.



We do not know exactly what the coming months will hold, but we are confident that God directs our steps. This did not catch Him by surprise and His Kingdom is not on lockdown! He works things out for our good. We are at peace knowing God is in control. Thank you for all your prayers, support, and concern. May the peace of God fill your hearts. We are praying for all of you!

God bless

Bob & Darlene, Bob & Evelyn McCoy