

# News from Brenda Hager

## Tagaytay City, Philippines

August 2017



Dear Pastor and Church Family,

Once again I begin my prayer letter with an apology for the long drought with no news during 2017.

### First Quarter News

The year got off to a fast start with a death in the church family. Michele went to be with her Savior in January after a yearlong battle with cancer.

In January we also had our DVBS seminar. I launched the search for just the right DVBS materials to meet the needs of our children.

We had our organizational meeting for the activities of 2017. It was an extensive meeting, for the 18th anniversary of Bethany Bible Believers' Church was planned for the last Sunday of February with the emphasis on "Rise up and Build." The church had a sacrifice offering that day to pay off the remaining balance on our 600-square-meter lot. Our speaker's emphasis was on "rising up and building lives." Many of you also gave sacrificial donations toward the final payment of the lot. We at Bethany Bible Believers' Church extend our most warm, heartfelt thanks for your liberality in giving toward our lot project. Our anniversary sacrifice offering fell short by 220,000 pesos. Two families in the church covered the shortfall by loaning the money that enabled us to make our deadline to pay for the property. At the writing of this letter, we have repaid 70,000 of the borrowed 220,000, and we still need to

pay the transfer fees. We will have another sacrifice Sunday on August 20 to raise money for our transfer fees. I hope to send a picture as soon as the lot is cleared, which, Lord willing, will happen when the rainy season is over.



In March we began conducting DVBS workshops/prayer meetings each Sunday afternoon. Our DVBS staff was probably one of the lowest in numbers because of people's jobs and the fact that the college school year was still in session.

### Second Quarter News

The first week of April was a frenzy of activity as we finished preparing the



materials, crafts, and decorations for the DVBS. The second week of April was our joint youth camp. I stayed home to finish the last-minute purchases and preparations for the DVBS.

Our VBS began the third week of April with a good start of 110 children, and the attendance never went below 100 children. The first day we had quite a few issues to work through. The main problem was the lack of space. Since the road widening chopped off one Sunday school room and shortened our sanctuary, we had less space for the classes. Normally our youth class is the smallest group; therefore it was assigned a small classroom. God



blessed and sent 25 students. The juniors, with over 30 kids, met in the largest rooms. Thus we had to make major adjustments in order to accommodate the students and the craft time. All of these were opportunities for growing and reiterated even more the need to "Rise Up and Build."

Despite all of the hindrances and lack of space, 25 children still made professions of faith. For the first time ever, 30 mothers attended the closing program. One raised her hand for

*That ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain . . . John 15:16*



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