

Know Jesus. Follow Jesus.
Be Transformed By Jesus.

The
**BERREY
FAMILY**
Prayer Letter



SEASONS OF LIFE AND MINISTRY

It is a beautiful morning as I sit in my study. My cell phone says it is not even 80 degrees here in Manila and it is almost 9:30 in the morning. Just like God grants us seasons of weather, allowing us to enjoy fluctuations between hot and cold, so also God grants us seasons in life and ministry. Each of these we can use for His glory as we strive for maximum fruitfulness in each.

I was encouraged lately as I shared the preaching stage with a graduate of our Bible college. His ability to connect with the audience during his sermon and adept witnessing to our taxi driver on the way home afterwards reminded me of why we are here. We are here as scaffolding, useful during the time a building is being constructed, but ultimately *the church here* is the structure that will continue onward for God's glory.

As we reach a season of change in our [Continuing Education for Pastors](#) (CEP) program, a four-year cycle of one-week module classes that provides pastors in the province an opportunity to earn a Master of Ministry degree, we have a matter for prayer to lay before you. We are grateful for Pastor Erick Garcia and the members at his church in Baguio City for hosting the program for almost

five years. As we reach the end of the cycle there, we are praying for the right next venue. Currently, two places are leading “contenders” in our minds—either Laoag City in northern Luzon or Romblon, an island a bit south of Luzon. Both have requested CEP and both have pastors eager to study. Some pastors have zero or virtually no training at all and are desperate to better feed their people the Word of God and respond to the growing cults and false doctrines in their areas.

Another personal prayer request is what I can do to help one of our former students, who is now back in Myanmar. David is from the Chin Tribe in Myanmar but has a heart to reach all of Myanmar. He loved the training he received through BJMBC and is requesting us to help in training his fellow preachers and missionary friends. But how? and when?, given an already full calendar of ministry opportunities. The needs in Myanmar are great, especially the need to reach the Burmese people there. Myanmar is a country with deep ethnic divides based on tribal affiliation. Much mission work, even successful mission work, has been done among the various minority tribes in the country, but the Burmese, proud of their ethnic dominance over the other tribes, have proven more resistant to the gospel over the years. Myanmar is a bit more open than it was a few years ago; now is the season to reach the Buddhist Burmese with the gospel.

This also is the season to minister in our own backyard. Pray for Joshua and Philip, two friends our children have made, who have been attending church with us and heard a clear, one-on-one presentation of the gospel last night for probably the first time in their lives. Pray that God would open their hearts to truth and that they would see the difference between Christian *religion* and a genuine *relationship* with Christ.

Lastly, it looks like the season of finally receiving our occupancy permit is drawing near. The inspection of the building went well yesterday, and the inspector checked everything as completed. However, we have a half dozen or so documents we need to shuffle through government agencies and we hope to

have them through their hands by the middle of February. We are close! By the way, God has used many of you, not only in America but in other Asian countries, to provide once again for our building needs this last month. It remains our testimony that every bill has been paid on time. We are thankful for this token of God's love for BJMBC, a love that we have seen and felt through so many of you who have sacrificially given in one way or another for the BJMBC building.

