

# Badjao Tribal Mission

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“a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb” Rev 7:9

Dear Prayer Friends,

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have been back in the Philippines after our furlough in the United States. We want to thank God for the way he has been with us during our stay in the US. Our stay in the US has not always been easy since we are both not citizens, but God provided for us and we are thankful for that.

Since we came back in the Philippines we had to adjust again to our home. We were only gone for a year but many things had to be cleaned up and cleared up. We also had to adjust anew to the heat and humidity. But things are going better now and most things are settled.

The ministry is going through a little tough time now. We found that things were quite different than what has been reported to us..

We need a lot of prayers for the different aspects in the ministry.

## School Program

### *Lasa Christian Academy*

To our greatest surprise we found that our main teacher in Lasa Christian Academy has left the school while she still claimed to be part of the school and was drawing a salary for two months after she left. As a result the school was in disarray and the other teachers were quite discouraged. Many of the students also left because of these problems at the school. Things have settled down a bit. Pray that we can quickly find a new senior teacher who can lead the school.

### *Leyte Sponsor Students*

We had some difficulties in Leyte also. The trouble started over a large number of new students that have enrolled and how to support and manage them. Many just enroll because of the free food that they get during lunch time but they do not study at school. Last year we had 33 students but this new school year, 55 students enrolled and that placed us in a rather difficult position. Pray for wisdom so that we can work through this problem.

## The Churches.

The church in Leyte is our weakest church but they seemed to have grown and the lay leadership is doing rather well. Several of the young men who graduated help with the leadership in the church and two of them are considering going to Bible School.

We have some difficulties with the church in Cebu. It is the struggle between new independent authority and the possible threat of the authority of the returning missionary. Also the church has lost many of its members and I am not sure yet what the reason for it is. Pray for wisdom as we work out our new responsibilities and how not to be a threat to the authority of the new pastor.

## Farm Project.

We are going through several struggles on the farm. First the praise report. We want to thank some individuals and the East Gate Church in Los Angeles that allowed us through their generous contributions to buy a second hand Kubota tractor in the US and that are shipping now to the Philippines. This will be a great help on the farm to work the land because plowing with the water buffaloes take to long.

Our biggest need is still water. If we do not have water it is very difficult to make the farm profitable. Pray that we can have the finances to drill for water.

We would like to start a new church for the people in our community

where the farm is so that we can reach out to them also. We will start with some Bible studies first and later we would like to start with a worship service.



Petrus and Rev Choi, also a farmer with the tractor they were able to purchase

## Badjao Relocation Program.

We went through many struggles with the government in trying to relocate the Badjao to a new area. First they were promised a area that is part of a group of very small islands. But because of politics this did not realize. Now the government allotted them a new area very near to the houses that burned down. The whole area is being reclaimed which will result in a healthier lifestyle hopefully. The main problem is that the government did not do this and the reclamation is done with the financial contributions of the Catholic Church. They paid \$200,000 to reclaim the land but now non Catholic groups are not allowed to build a church in that area. That means that we can not build a church in that area. Now we need to look for different option. Pray for wisdom so that we can know how to work through this problem.

## Goals for the next term.

1. Develop a better training for our lay leaders in the church to help them grow.
2. Send out Badjao missionaries to start new churches.
3. Building of new church and school for the Badjao in Cebu City.
4. Building of a church in Bato Leyte for the Badjao.
5. To establish a Lasa Academy better with better teachers.
6. To help develop the farm so that the ministry can become self supporting through the farm ministry.

## Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the lay leader development program.
2. Pray for the new church building and location in Cebu City
3. Pray for Las Christian Academy.
4. Pray for the farm project – especially for water.
5. Pray for the new church we want to start at the farm for the local community.
6. Pray for Anna our daughter as she was left behind in the US to go to college there. Johan will go to college in the Philippines.

God Bless,

Petrus and Chunghee Vercueil