



Dear Osco Community Church,

At the beginning of the year I began reading through the entire holy scriptures chronologically. I'm now up to Paul's letters to the Corinthians where he writes, "We have been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken." (2 Corinthians 4:8-9) Although Paul's afflictions were not the result of a global pandemic, the truth of what enabled him to persevere under his trials is the same truth for us whatever our trials may be. God does not leave our side.

"Give thanks to the LORD for he is good; his love endures forever." – **1 Chronicles 16:34**

To say that this has been a challenging year for each of us may be an understatement - and it's not over yet. Whatever your hardship has been or continues to be, I want you to know how grateful I am for you. You are a blessing to me and to the ministry we share here in Southeast Asia. Know that you are prayed for regularly and are deeply loved. More importantly, you are deeply loved by God. He is good and his love for you endures forever. Thank you for your partnership in proclaiming that love to young people across Southeast Asia.

MYANMAR CENTRE REPAIRS

One of the things that I want to give thanks to the LORD for is the timely provision of funds for our Myanmar team. A few individuals responded to the need I shared for completing the repairs of a new roof on our ministry centre in Bago. Thankfully this was able to be completed before the rainy monsoon season was in full force. We were also able to replace the border wall surrounding the center providing added safety and protection for the youth being housed there.



SHARING GODS LOVE AND CARE

Our teams in Myanmar, Indonesia, and Philippines were greatly encouraged by the generous outpouring of concern and support of friends in the US & Canada in the early months of the COVID-19 lockdown. Teams in each of these countries were able to distribute care packages to financially struggling families of students and neighbors in their communities. Over 100 Care Packages were assembled and distributed. Each package contained gifts of fruit, rice, canned goods, cooking oil, beans, sugar, and hygiene products. We thank God for this opportunity to bless and share God's love and care with families in the community.



A few of our team leaders in Philippines: Jeryll, Dona and Omar getting relief packages assembled.



ONLINE GATHERINGS

We have not hit "pause" during the lockdown but have been implementing digital ministry as an additional way for connecting with youth. At the outset of the pandemic we were forced to rely only on digital platforms for communication with our isolated teens and staff. Digital outreach has now become not just a replacement mode to our ministries, but a supplement to all that we were doing before. Schools in Thailand and surrounding nations have begun opening up again (some on limited and restricted basis). Yet we continue carrying out online meetings or activities with staff and young people who have now become accustomed to the online environment. Our team in Singapore is planning several "online" activities in the coming months and will do these alongside their more traditional face-to-face connecting with students.



Saturday Afternoons with Meaw, Nong Bank, P'Bank, Brongsai, Ball, Saawng, Dale and Man.

BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

Here in Thailand in-person meetings with young people have been able to resume and staff are again visiting school and university campuses. It has been great to connect with the local team and youth again. Thailand has done extremely well at reducing the community spread of the coronavirus. Commercial flights in and out of the country however remain on-hold, possibly until 2021. Again, I'm thankful to God to have been inside the country and not stranded somewhere when the borders closed.

I was deeply shocked and saddened to hear the news of the explosion in Lebanon on August 4. Thankfully none of the YFC staff were hurt. The office that I served out of for 8 years sustained damage as well as their newest YFC ministry centre which is located closer to the blast site. The international church I was part of also had their windows blown out. It is strange to see the part of the city I frequently passed through so devastated. Pray for my Lebanese colleagues and the community of believers to remain hopeful under their difficult circumstances. The LORD is good and his love endures forever.

God's grace and peace to you and your family,