

## Mission Snapshot



By Ryan Lawless

It is incredible to see the awesome way God uses you. So often we just walk by people, and we don't think twice about that person we just passed. As a member of the Body of Christ, in what way do they need me? I would like to recount an event that happened in Quito right before coming to Ahuano. We ventured out into the city, and we saw this woman and her two kids on the side of the road. Her eyes revealed an abyss of great sadness within her. We stopped to talk to her. Her name is Luz de Belen (Light of Bethlehem) and she was holding a sleeping infant. The 2 year old with her, Sebastian, immediately jumped in my arms when I sat down to talk with him. Luz has 5 kids and her husband left her after her last baby. She is living on the street with her kids, because she lost her job and can't pay rent. At first she couldn't speak, but only cried. We talked with her and Sebastian about the awesome love of our God. We prayed over her, laying our hands on her and the kids. It was incredible. We gave her some money, and the food we had to Sebastian. When we left, she was no longer crying; in her eyes there was a light, the flame of Christ within her had been fed. I realize now that we actually encountered Jesus.



*"Go into the whole world and  
proclaim the Gospel"*

**Mark 16:15**

Compelled by Jesus' missionary mandate, and filled with the Holy Spirit, Family Missions Company missionaries proclaim Jesus Christ and His Gospel to the poor. Always working in concert with the pastors of the Catholic Church, we strive to live the Gospel that we preach. We believe the Lord is calling many Catholic lay people, both singles and families, to serve in foreign missions, "the greatest and holiest duty of the Church" (Vatican II).

**The need is urgent;**

**we must GO!**



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Dear Benefactors,  
At FMC, we seek out those most in need, from prisoners, to the homeless, to hungry children around the world. We share Christ's love with them. We follow in Jesus' footsteps in preferring service to the poor, and in the steps of our new Pope Francis, who wrote when he was Cardinal: "The bishop's fidelity to the Gospel and his love for the spirit of poverty lead him to a special option in favor of the poor who are at the central core of the Good News of Jesus." Thank you for helping us to bring that Good News to so many in need!

**THANK YOU**

for your support of  
Family Missions Company!



THANKS!

## From the Field:



### Visiting the Imprisoned: Odilio Reports from Malaybalay

I have always been drawn to serving in prisons. When we arrived in Malaybalay, the Romeros mentioned all of the requests for their presence as missionaries and the one that I remembered most was at the City Jail. I prayed and prayed that God would show us if this was possible.

One day we met a priest at our chapel, Fr. Oliver. I mentioned how the prison had been



**Meeting the Warden with Neneng**

on my heart in my daily prayer. He told us that the diocesan prison coordinator could introduce us to the warden. The very next day, a lady named Neneng came to see us. She had taken a 16-hour trip! She was thrilled that we wanted to visit the jail weekly. God was answering prayers all over the place. Our whole family and Neneng headed off to the city jail about 15 minutes away. My heart and mind were starting to focus on the prisoners. I started feeling the butterflies in my stomach. I'd never been to a prison before. Before I could think, "Wait! Why did we bring the kids? What if they see something that scares them badly?", we had arrived. We met the warden who led us on a tour. It was different than

what I was expecting. There was landscaping and tilled up ground ready for planting. I was expecting a rowdy and dirty environment, but we walked into the cells (some for men, some for women) to smiles, a lot of clapping hands, and shouts of, "Good morning ma'am/ sir!"

We returned after a few days to distribute care packs for the prisoners. The Eckstine family was there and sang while the kids handed out the gifts. We also attended a Mass which Father Oliver celebrated in a separate quarter. It was a blessed time being united with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Since then, I have been regularly visiting the detainees every Tuesday morning. Bryan, Ramon, Bebie, and some of the others from Isla Bonita come to help with translations, singing, and testimonies. When the inmates see someone they know, it immediately brings a smile to their lonely faces. Please pray for me as I continue sharing my simple series of talks prepared by Dismas Ministries. Because of the language barrier here I have to simplify to get the point across. My topics lately have been all about the sacraments. I love this quote from one of the inmates in Dismas Ministries: "Prisoners need God and the love of Jesus and Mary as much or even more than the population as a whole."



**Preaching About New Life in Christ**



## Miracle Report

One "Glory Story" a few weeks ago was about an answered prayer. I was up late finishing my presentation when suddenly my phone started buzzing with new texts, "Sorry, Odilio, I cannot come to the jail with you tomorrow." Both of my helpers and my translator had to cancel. My slideshow was done and it was too late to go back to SIMPLIFY more! I prayed to God to just send my guardian angel ahead of me. The next day I showed up without a translator. An awkward moment passed and then one of the female detainees shouted, "I will, I would like to translate!" "AMEN!", I said. Joy came up and beautifully translated everything. Thank you, Lord, for Joy giving me joy! She even gave her own testimony in front of her peers, which I know was not easy because of her tears. She came up afterwards and asked to join my prison ministry when she is out in two years.

## Mission Message

"Jesus teaches us another way: Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as spirit..."

**- Cardinal Bergoglio (Pope Francis)**