

**MAY 2022**

## Transitions

*Ken and Ruth Copey tells us about the changes in their lives and their ministry in the Philippines.*



After much prayer, Ruth and I decided to leave the Philippines. No, not for good, but we will no longer reside on any one of the many islands this beautiful land has to offer. We have lived and worked here for most of the 40 years of our ministry. We will be continuing with our mission work through our partners and teams. We can help them administratively, raise funds, give guidance and prayer but they will press on to the higher calling of our Lord. Ruth can continue her translation

and editing work from anywhere we will be in the future. Although face to face is preferred, in this season we have virtual meetings and even trainings as needed.

Currently, through our SALT ministry team, we are doing a community outreach and water source improvement project. Begun last January, water has already reached this upland village - a 3 km long project to pipe water from a natural spring source. Previously this village of 500 families had no drinking water of its own. Still to be finished are the reservoir tanks to aid in distribution to the community. We really trust our partners to do things well, as they have been with us before in a similar type of work. (Also see article on back page.)

The other ongoing ministries we have are the Bible translation work in Zamboanga, the Student Scholars' and Children's Discipleship ministry - Mindanao wide. For the latter we have a team of volunteer teachers who will keep things going even if we are away.

So many children have taken the TMC Bible lessons, while other classes are on-going. An answer to prayer was the approval of some of the material by the Dept. of Education. Now in one district 8000 children will be studying God's

Word. In another area a local Police Department has used it for teaching street kids and delinquents.



### Graduation in Ilang

We've come to love and respect people from different tribes and dialects. It has been our great privilege to serve over 10 ethnic groups through the years. We have loved as Jesus loved, but we feel the people gave more back to us than vice versa. Language and culture, trust, friendship, love, brotherhood, fellowship, and joy. These are the surprising gifts they gave to us.

Mindanao island is where we called home for the past 17 years, but we also lived in Luzon for 14 years and Negros Island for 4 years. We planned to have our farewell visits and a grand tour to many of our ministry areas, like tribal villages, but alas we were unable to as there were still restrictions from COVID-19.

On December 6<sup>th</sup> we traveled from Davao to Manila to LA, California to begin our furlough and transition back to North America. Before we left, we had so much to sort through, sell, or give away after many years living in the Philippines. It was exhausting and very emotional with so many memories. We had several tearful goodbye parties called *despedidas*. We felt so blessed as people shared their memories and showed their appreciation for us.

*"Goodbye Philippines and Filipino people, we will always have you in our hearts!"*

In His time, the Lord has kept us safe and healthy. After spending Christmas with our 3 married children and 3 grandchildren, in California, USA we flew to Toronto, Canada. We made it in time to attend Ruth's sister's memorial service, and indeed it was both a sad and special day of celebrating her life. Ruth and Anita (Bertrand) were very close, having worked together spearheading The Mailbox Club children's ministry in the Philippines.



With Nanay Luz

We are also here to help Ruth's mom Luz cope with life without Dad Frank Matias. Now we realized just how much Frank cared for, and all he did, for Luz. She is 95 and needs 24-hour care, so Ruth and her 3 sisters have been taking turns watching over her. Now a more secured place has opened at Shepherd's Village for Nanay Luz. She seems to be enjoying her new 'neighbors' and adjusting some. It's still a big challenge for her and the

whole family but we thank the Lord for His sustaining grace!

**Pray for us as we depend on God's timing and in everything trust Him. We will be in Canada for several months, to help Ruth's mom, and to wait for our US papers, for Ruth's visa to be approved. We are praying it will come in time to be there for our 4<sup>th</sup> grandchild, due in July in San Diego CA, where our daughter lives.**

## Emmanuel International Strategic planning

Paul and Helen Jones, EI International Director, is working together with all of EI's Country Directors to put together a Strategic Plan. This will be relevant to the whole organisation.

The team is currently in the process of identifying facilitators who will be able to best guide them through this process. The whole process will likely last a considerable time.

**Please pray for God's wisdom, unity and direction in this endeavour.**



# Marabuhay Water Project in the Philippines

Marabuhay is a Mindanao upland community that had no access to potable water. People commonly suffered from skin disease and diarrhea. It was expensive and difficult to get their daily needs of water.

Emmanuel International in the Philippines started a water project in this community. Since the villagers have been without their own source of drinking water for so long, some were at first very skeptical that it would work. Then once the water flow was tested, they saw some hope. Could it be true? The source seemed so far, 3 kms from the community.

Phase 1 began in earnest earlier this year, in February and March. The project commenced with building the water system: cleaning up and capping the water source, building catchment tanks and laying of pipes to the community.

After the 50 rolls of pipe arrived, the team began clearing pathways, digging trenches and connecting all of the pipes. Since each roll of pipe is 90 meters long it takes a lot of work to stretch it out. The pipes have now reached the village!

Still to be built are the two reservoir tanks which will allow all the 500 families clean drinking water!

In the next phase, technical training for operating the water system will be provided to the community. The last phase focuses on the sustainability of the program. This includes tree planting, periodic checking of the pipes, scheduled cleaning of the reservoir and other miscellaneous maintenance activities.



*You can watch a video on this update on <https://fb.watch/ddIDFEeCBo/> or scan the QR code on your smartphone.*

