



Unexpected Friendships

One morning, Bruce and I decided to play “hookie” and take a break from our whirlwind of activities. We put on our helmets, hopped on the motorcycle and went venturing out, not knowing where to go and what to do in this new world of social distancing, masks and checkpoints. Palawan is famous for being the Last Frontier of the Philippines - with spectacular beaches, magical lagoons and sparkling seas. We had tried visiting beach resorts earlier in May with no success as leisure activities were prohibited due to the pandemic. This morning was no different. So we kept riding until we remembered a nearby hot spring. The entrance seemed unmanned and thinking it too was closed we turned to leave when a sleepy-eyed security guard came out. I asked him if the hot spring was open and he said, “yes, just follow the dirt road for 2 kilometers and you won’t miss it.”

The end of the road opened to an area where 5 pools of hot springs bubbled. Bruce and I waded into the pool and then sat at one of the picnic huts. I got thirsty so went to look for coconut to drink. While I was away, an Australian 70+ year-

old man started a conversation with Bruce. They immediately connected. Collin invited us to his home and we accepted.

Collin lost his wife from cancer 12 years ago. He came to the Philippines to heal and never left. He is married now, but has COPD and had surgery recently to remove a section of his colon. His concern now is how to keep healthy and how to set his wife up financially when he passes. His ailment is plaguing his thoughts. Bruce and Collin have many things in common; Australia, Filipina wives, and healthcare. A good recipe for friendship.

We feel God brings people to our lives for a reason. May our friendships be in accordance to God’s will for our lives and other’s lives and may God be the Center of our many conversations.


Bees in a Box

One late afternoon, while preparing for a Children’s Sabbath School program, I needed some arts and craft items in our temporary storage (a kubo or bamboo dormitory) built to lodge



large groups of short-term missionaries. It was close to dusk and with my bad vision due to cataracts, I entered the dark room cautiously, started going through boxes and retrieved items I needed. I noticed three boxes stacked together. I thought I needed some of the items from the middle box so I began to lift it up when I felt hairy, crawly insects on my fingers. I panicked, pulled my hands out, screamed and ran out!

It was a close call! After my sudden exit, Raylene and Edgar investigated and found it was a colony of honey bees! Honey bees are basically harmless unless they sense they need to defend their colony. I may have been attacked and stung to the point of hospitalization and massive swelling. But thanks be to God, He protects and keeps us safe. This encounter reminded me of Paul's adventures recorded in Acts 28:3-6 when a viper fastened itself to his hand, but he suffered no ill effects.




PRAYER REQUESTS:
Please pray for Jed, a missionary pilot candidate for the Philippine Project.

“The LORD is my protector; He is my strong fortress. My God is my protection, and with Him I am safe. He protects me like a shield; He defends me and keeps me safe.”


— Psalms 18:2

Project Need



In 2018, generous supporters donated funds for a tractor that was shipped in the 40-foot container holding AWA's disassembled Cessna 182, headed to the Palawan Project. This Kubota tractor has been a huge blessing to the project. Other supporters donated so AWA could purchase four tractor implements. This tractor has been our workhorse for the airstrip; particularly during pandemic restrictions that limited our ability to hire additional labor.

Although the tractor is housed in a makeshift kubo to protect it from the elements, the implements are left outside. We would like to prolong the lives of these implements and are planning to build small movable huts for each of them. We have an indigenous elderly couple who can sell thatched roofing very inexpensively. We have wood from fallen trees on the property. If you would like to help support this small project, please contact the AWA office.



**Your AWA Mission Family stationed at the Palawan Mission Project:
Bruce and Monique Wilkerson**