



The Espinosa Family



The church of Valderama is a small church, and sits humbly, in the hills, 4 miles off of the main highway. Many people here don't have their own transportation, so getting to church isn't always easy. Its thin bamboo walls were old and in desperate need of repair. The local Conference, the Palawan SDA Mission, had plans to hold evangelistic meetings there, but did not have the funds to pay for the labor for the repairs. That's when they planned a work bee for all of the neighboring churches. The plan was to work during the day to switch out the bamboo walls and that night hold the first meeting. We would have to work fast! We loaded up in the truck and headed out to the work bee. We had planned on stopping first at the home of

Romy and Lourdes, who lived half way between the AWA base and Valderama. They are now both very old, and were never able to have children. Because of this, they put all their energy into the church. They have been constantly involved in the college outreach group (AMICUS), and other evangelistic meetings. Whenever there is an event that usually lasts 1-2 weeks, Romy and Lourdes happily pack up their small tent and a few belongings and go camp and partake in helping out. The college kids love having them around and their help is much needed. We pulled off the main highway, and turned the truck toward their house. We pulled into the dirt driveway leading up to their small bamboo house. As soon as we got out, our hearts melted when we



heard Lourdes groaning. We rushed in to see what the problem was. We found out that she had been sick and in bed for two weeks now! A week ago Romy had taken her to the hospital, but they were turned away. Here, when someone goes to the hospital, you are required to have a family member come along to help feed you, bring food and water and bathe you. Even things like emptying a patient's catheter is the responsibility of the family. Since Lourdes had no one "young enough" to help her, they would not let her be admitted. When we found her in such misery, we quickly loaded her up into the truck and took her to the hospital. Romy told us that they had tried calling us for help, but the calls wouldn't go through on the cell phone. We have had many power outages during this rainy season, and with no power, we have no antenna for cell phone service. We felt terrible that we weren't there when they needed us. My wife quickly volunteered to be the attendant for Lourdes at the hospital. I dropped them off and made sure all was well before progressing again to the work bee. Lourdes was kept at the hospital for only a day. They weren't specific with the reasons for the discharge, but it was either to keep her out of possible exposure for

Covid, or sometimes they will discharge you if you are poor and may not be able to pay. Either way, she was sent home with treatments to take at home.

Romy and Lourdes have always been very giving people. They have literally given the tarp off of their roof when someone else needed it more. They have cooked and cleaned and talked and laughed with kids of all ages and mentored those who need it most. Because they have no one to take care of them, they live on a simple diet of sweet potatoes and greens that he has planted. We have helped whenever we can, but many days, we too are short on money and have nothing left to give. We try to help our villagers whenever we can. We have found that if you close your fists tight to hold onto what you think you need, then your hands won't be open to receive more of God's blessings! You just can't out-give God.

We will continue to give and share whenever/whatever we can. And Romy and Lourdes also will continue to give, and God will continue to provide. He just always does!

Please pray for us as we serve here in the Philippines and if you are able to share from what you have, your donations would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your prayers and support. God bless you all!

God bless you!

Edgar & Raylene Espinosa



**Your AWA Mission Family
stationed at the AWA
Philippines - Palawan Mission Project:
Edgar & Raylene Espinosa**