

September 27, 2017

Dear fellow workers,

Thank you so much for praying about this morning's meeting! Several men from my Filipino staff and I met for nearly two hours with Aurora Ignacio, a member of President Duterte's staff. She is a believer and is very grateful for what God has done through BTEA's ministry in the Philippines during the past thirty plus years. She told us that there is a very long waiting list of people requesting appointments with the President's staff, but she knew about our ministry and Timmy's children's hospital in Davao City, so she moved us to the top of the list. The church Mrs. Ignacio attends hosted our son's "Night to Shine" (the prom for special needs kids) this past year. Her pastor has been a good friend for many years. Only God could have orchestrated all of these incredible details for the meeting you prayed for!

Our meeting was very positive! We still need your prayers, though, as we attempt to comply with the request for assistance in combating drugs in the schools. The President's main goal while he is in office is to eliminate the use of illegal drugs. President Duterte's passion does not take God by surprise. Our desire has always been to bless Filipinos in multiple ways. For years, we have incorporated the "No Drugs" message into our gospel presentation in the schools.

Mrs. Ignacio asked for pictures and video of our gospel presentation, as well as statements from principals and policeman about the long-term results of our presentations at the schools. I suggested that we ask a policeman or lawyer to write a one-page summary of the legal consequences of drug abuse. In addition, we will ask a doctor to write a one-page summary of the physical effects of illegal drug use. Teachers could then use these documents from authorities to teach their students about the negative impact of using drugs. Our role, of course, is to present the spiritual focus.

Mrs. Ignacio was impressed that we have served the Filipino people for more than thirty years; yet we have never asked the government or the people we serve for anything in return. At the conclusion of our meeting, she commented, "Everyone else who requests an appointment wants something, but you want to give and not get. You have been doing this all these years. With or without us, you will continue to keep right on doing it." She got that right!

We will work hard for the remainder of this trip to prepare a detailed five-year plan to present at our next meeting. Please pray that God would give us favor with the President; and as we assist him in his passion to combat drugs, he will grant us permission to present the Gospel in every school in the Philippines.

In the harvest,
Bob