



**Whoever oppresses
a poor man insults
his Maker, but he
who is generous to
the needy honors
him.**

Prov. 14,31

Dear friends,

October 2020

Time flies and so we already are in October. Due to the worldwide pandemic the year 2020 was unusual in many ways and has brought some dramatic changes. Whole systems as well as the life of many people have been deeply shaken. Many of us had to find new ways for our daily life processes. This is also the case for Step by Step Ministries.

Torsten is still in Germany. Due to the Corona crisis, the Philippines, like many other countries, are keeping their borders closed for foreigners. As you can easily imagine, Torsten eagerly waits for the reopening of the borders, so that he can fly back. But in the meantime, he is making the most of the situation by using the available digital possibilities.



He has daily conference calls with Oscar, our Filipino staff, who is on-site in Dumaguete and discusses the daily business with him. Oscar is a very important link between the church we are working with and the families we are taking care of.

Due to the limited financial resources the Filipino government has at its disposal, it is unfortunately impossible to perform extensive and nationwide Covid19 tests. Therefore, the national infection rate is rather unclear.

What is clear though is the fact that destitute people impoverish more every day. Many fathers who worked as day laborers have lost their job. They don't have financial reserves, let alone a bank account with savings. The families we are caring for struggle every day for survival. They do their best to make sure that at least the daily rice is provided for everyone

in the family. Many of these families do not have health care insurance and would not be able to cover hospital fees. People live with uncertainty and fear.

As Step by Step we give these families practical support and hope: "God is not far away, but he loves you and takes care of you and your family."



Every week, Oscar, together with some youth from the church carries out 5 feedings for kids aged from 3-12 years old. All in all 80-100 kids attend the 5 weekly feedings. After the captivating Bible story, a nourishing meal is served. Here on the picture you can see them eating spaghetti, one of their favorite meals.

After an exciting program and a good meal, it is time for the children to go home. Before they do, we distribute care packages with staple food. Every member of the children's families receives 1 kg of rice, some canned goods such as sardines or corned beef, noodles, and powder milk. The package also contains some shampoo, soap and toothpaste for the whole family. The size of the care package varies according to the number of family members.

As you can imagine, the families are very grateful for the support. They see God's love and care in this practical help.



Nobody knows how the Corona-situation will evolve in the coming months. But what we do know is that we are coming closer to Christmas. In addition to the care packages, that we are going to distribute in the next weeks, we want to carry out a special Christmas initiative as Step by Step.



Each child, who participates in one of our feedings, will receive a T-shirt in addition to a generous Christmas care package.

You might remember Tarco. He is paraplegic and has been lying on a cot for several years after he had an accident. His family cannot attend our feedings, due to the fact that they are living in the hills of Dumaguete, but they are included in our family program and will benefit as well from this special Christmas initiative.

Our plan is to distribute 150 T-shirts.

We are deeply in line with God's very own heart when we, out of love for Him do good and bring joy to people who struggle for survival.

In the Bible it says:

"Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him." Prov. 14.31.

A big thank you to all of you for your generous support and your precious prayers. We value your friendship very much.

Let's keep in touch!

Sincerely,

Tam. Benold.

Torsten & Marie-Th. with Step by Step Team

For more information, you can have a look at our webpage using the following link (<https://sbsministries.de/en/welcome/>) or the QR-Code.

Bank account: Step-by-Step-Ministries

IBAN: DE 65 600 5010 100 044 72720 BIC:SOLADEST600

Address in Germany: Am Oelbachgraben 14, 79599 Wittlingen / **Address in the Philippines:** P.O.Box 246, 6200 Dumaguete City, Philippines

