

## The Griffiths' April 2025 Update

**Gordon** <gordondgriffith@173725409.mailchimpapp.com> Reply-To: gordondgriffith@gmail.com

To: wm.abeyta@gmail.com

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Hello friends & family, Here is a quick story about one of our ministries.

# **Pathway Bible Study**



Arth taking a selfie to remember the day that he received Jesus. From left to right: Arth, Gerald, Pastor Rahuel, and me.

As many of you know, I, Gordon, have been leading a Bible study at Pathway to Recovery, an addiction recovery center (more formally known as a center for those recovering from substance use disorder). What started as discipling Alain, who has now been sober for close to a year now, has led to leading a weekly Bible study for several batches of people for several months now. Two weeks ago, a new batch of individuals started this three-month program, so I am just getting to know them. Most of these individuals claim to know God in some capacity, whether through Catholicism, Evangelicalism, Islam, or something else. In fact, one of the current clients, Gerald, grew up in the Evangelical Church (two of his brothers are local pastors), then spent five years as a devout Muslim, and is now open to either group because, as he put it, "Both teach about God" (Please pray for him). However, as we study the Bible together, it has become clear that none of them thus far know much about the Bible, nor do they, more importantly, know God intimately.

This past Sunday, a young man named Arth joined our group for the second time. Arth said that he has had many friends invite him to church, but he has always refused to go, saying that he thought he needed to first get his life together in order to go to church. As we talked with him, it became clear that he knows the basics of Christianity, so these friends must have also shared their faith with him over the years. As we went through the parable of the Good Shepherd from John 10, Arth began to realize how much God cares about and loves him despite not having his life together. He finally understood the gift of Grace, who is Jesus, the gift that is offered out of love and affection for us and is not a "gift" that has strings attached, nor is it a prize for good behavior, payment for doing good works, or a debt that needs to be repaid. Once he understood this, he said, "I was planning on not joining the group today, but something told me I should, and I am so glad that I did. I finally understand the Good News, and today is the day that I am going to receive Jesus. I'm going to mark it on my calendar." The shocking thing for us was him making this decision without us prompting him to do so. As he prayed to receive Jesus, he said that the hairs on his arms began to stand up, and when we prayed a blessing over him, he began to tear up. He then asked where he should start reading in the Bible, so we pointed him to the book of John, which he later messaged me confirming that he already started to read it.

This story is a reminder of how, as Paul wrote, some plant the seed and some water, but God causes the growth. Those who invited Arth to church and shared their faith planted the seed, and as we shared the Scriptures, making sure to answer Arth's questions and concerns, we were watering that seed, which God then caused to grow. His friend's sharing was not in vain but was part of the growth process. This was an encouraging reminder for me, and I hope this can be an encouragement for those who are reading this today who are sharing their faith.

Thank you for being a part of what God is doing here in the Philippines. Shalom!

The Griffiths

## **FUNDRAISING**

Support Pledged: 73% Raised!

We are still fundraising for World Partners and are over halfway to our goal. We are looking for those who are willing to pledge financial support, whether monthly, quarterly, or annually, but are also open to one-time donors. If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more about our ministry please do not hesitate to contact us. We would love to set up a time to video chat and have a conversation about partnering with us.

## **GIVING**

There are three ways to give to our ministry through World Partners.

### 1. Automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account (ACH)

ACH is easy, secure, and has the lowest processing fee, so it's a great option for giving monthly\*! If you prefer this option, please email us and we can send you the editable form to fill out.

\*ACH is not available for one-time gifts.

#### 2. Give online via credit card

Follow the link below and then follow the prompts to set up a recurring donation or a one-time gift.

To change or cancel an online gift at any time by contacting World Partners at 260-747-9439.

Online Giving

#### 3. Mail in a check

Tried and true, you can still mail in a check! Make the check out to World Partners and write M732 in the memo line. If you plan to give the same amount monthly, quarterly, or annually, please include a note indicating that so we can keep pledge information up-to-date. Mail the check to

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