

7/26/22

It's crazy to realize this, but I'm writing this from the US. I got back home safely not long ago and am now working to readjust back to life in the US. It's definitely quite a bit different here.

I stayed busy as usual my last month in Palawan. I had some interesting patients to treat as well as teaching in the school. I also celebrated my birthday with my family in Merma'. I don't feel mature enough to be twenty now lol!

After school one day we got visitors telling us that one of our student's older brothers was very sick. After some deliberation we made the decision to go to the patient because we understood that he was unable to move. We hiked about an hour and a half from Merma' to find the patient very sick and in need of getting to the hospital. Because the helicopter couldn't come until the next morning the four of us who had come from Merma' crammed into a tiny hut to sleep for the night. In the morning the local people made a landing area for the helicopter and I attended to the patient before the helicopter thankfully came that afternoon to transport the patient. I have to say this was one of my most interesting patients, I was very thankful to see him getting to a hospital.

Celebrating my birthday and wrapping up my time teaching was definitely a happy/sad sort of thing. I grew to love my students and enjoyed teaching them, even though sometimes it was hard. I was so touched that they all went to the trouble of making beautiful cards for me. Leaving my friends in Merma' was one of the more difficult things I've had to do in my life.

Reflecting now on my experience in Palawan I'm so thankful that I was willing to push past my fears and misgivings about going. I trusted God to be with me through the experience and he was! God was with me through the hard times and the good times. I really learned a lot about myself and understanding other perspectives. Your worldview really changes when you live in another culture and begin to understand it. It was an amazing experience and if the Lord saw fit I would definitely be willing to go back!

Well this is it folks, thank you so much for reading my emails and for all your prayers and support for me and the people of Palawan.