

1/15/22

The time since my last message to you all has been filled with a whirlwind of expectation, adventure, and learning. After my arrival in Palawan I expected to hike into the mountains immediately after being cleared from quarantine but instead I ended up working in the lowlands for about two weeks. This consisted of helping to care for a few patients, yardwork around the farm and learning to find my way around Brooke's point shopping and taking a few people to the hospital.

After thinking I would be waiting even longer to hike into the mountains, I was informed on December 15 that we would be hiking into the village of Merma the very next day! So I hurriedly packed my bags and said my good byes to loved ones and hiked in to begin bootcamp. (I need to mention that it is a policy of the AFM project here in Palawan for new student missionaries to turn in electronic devices for a month at the start of bootcamp. Hence the reason no one has heard from me since then.) Bootcamp consisted of living in the village of Merma learning a different way of life and studying Palawano, the language of Palawan. To give you an idea of what it was like, there are no bathrooms and only one source of water; also if you want to go somewhere its either up or down due to the mountainous terrain. I must say though I'm very thankful for my time there growing closer to God and making friends with the villagers as I worked and played with them.

Once my two weeks in Merma was up we hiked back out to the lowlands and then here to Kemantian which is where the project started. The village here is much more developed and I appreciate having an outhouse and a metal roof! My work here has been more language learning and training in the clinic. It's definitely an interesting thing to figure out how to assess a patient in another language lol! As far as language, I can understand about 1/3 to 1/2 of what people say but still not enough to fully understand what they're trying to tell me. For now I will be living here until my training is considered complete enough for me to be sent to another village to help out.

Hopefully this gives you a good glimpse of my life here in Palawan. As always I appreciate your prayers as I continue to learn and do my best to serve the people here. If you have any questions or would like to contact me feel free to do so!