



The Sprout Report

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed..."
Matthew 13:31

The Newsletter of Mustard Seed Ministries

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19

When we arrived back in the Philippines a few weeks ago we were eager to see old friends and greet our new neighbors...

About four years ago a young family doing ministry on one of the outer islands stayed on our mission compound while awaiting the birth of a child. We really enjoyed getting to know them and had a real appreciation for their perspective on ministry.

Over the succeeding years on the island, God blessed their work. They managed to balance what has often seemed one of the biggest challenges in missions: doing community development without neglecting evangelism and discipleship. Furthermore, they were able to keep the work indigenous by always making it about the people they were serving with an eye toward those folks running it as soon as possible.

Since the model was so successful, they felt led to try it in different places and different cultural settings. A more strategic location was needed. After some discussion and prayer, it seemed to all of us that our ministry resources here might be a helpful link to see that vision move to the next level. So they're our new neighbors!

The Philippines is home to approximately six million Muslims. Islam arrived in the late 1300s and has a long history here. Much of the contact that the Muslim communities have had with so-called “Christians” has been unhappy (and many non-Muslim people here would say the same of them). Our new partners would like to help change that.

Based on the number of new people coming to the field with a similar vision, there is a strong sense that this is something the Lord is orchestrating. Please pray with us that we would be sensitive to the Lord’s leading as we seek Him and begin to explore these opportunities.

We face a big challenge but are encouraged in this pursuit by these words: **“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” Romans 10:14**

Love, Scott and Cindy

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