

Friday, January 17, 2020. Today is the second to last day here in Cebu Philippines. Again I was not feeling well because of this bad cold I overslept. I missed the morning stretches. Next on the agenda was breakfast; however, I was late for that too. Thank God I was able to eat, and food was still there for me. Seated at the table all of us were aware that the next morning we would be leaving for a stop-over at Hong Kong to debrief. The final day was approaching and, although the weeks seem long like it would never end, the reality is the time was approaching to leave. Some of us in the Nyack group start reflecting on when we first arrived and, what would any of us feel when we return to our lives?

First, the plan was to do the quiz after lunch as time went on; the wi-fi was acting up; it was not connecting. When the time came, I had a slow computer and that did not like the fact everyone had started, and I did not have a good start. For me, Friday the 17th is a blur. I kept wanting the day to go by slower when some days before I wanted things to speed up so I can come back home to New York and I was well aware that when the time finally gets here, I will miss these precious faces of the children as well as the teachers. They were all so joyful, and this day was for reminiscing and laughter. I remembered one day I was in the main house and the children came over to call me, they said it was a surprise I was reluctant because they would not tell me why? I went to the library where they wanted me to dance, everyone at the School House was asking where I was and did not want to dance without me I was thinking at the time I don't dance impromptu at least not for a crowd. I felt like ok and I am from the Caribbean when will I get a chance to come back as this was important to them. Later that night, I looked at myself on the video and said no! what was I thinking? I am too fat! What happened to me? So I blamed it on all that good food we were feasting on at Pastor Rick's and Dr. Jiji.

On Friday night Pastor Rick had ordered Ice Cream in a big galvanized container where two people were giving out ice cream cones to everyone. Some had seconds and thirds; it was a fun

night with laughter and singing and lots of pictures taken in groups and watching the video that Pastor Rick and Dr. Jiji provided showing the beginnings of the G1:27 Home School and also the start of their marriage, children and information about Orange Grove Ministries which started in 2009. After all the laughter, then there were tears as we exchanged cards and pleasantries with each other. Orange Grove Ministries Church members follow the Lord in their gifts and talents like discipleship, worship, evangelism, leadership development, and team building.

Pastor Rick said his calling is to teach, we were able to go to two Sundays services but I will miss all of the people there.