



Christ for the Philippines Mission



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Tony & Ypille Tirse

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Hello from the Philippines to all of our brethren, prayer partners, supporting churches and friends in the ministry! Maupay na adlow. ("Good day" in the Waray-Waray dialect). We would like to thank you all for your continued prayers and support. We are STILL thrilled at the amazing calling from God to minister His Word in this mission field.

God never said that life would be easy or heart-break free in the Christian life. He certainly did not promise a care-free, happy-go-lucky life for those who would serve Him. But He did promise us one thing, and through all I cling on to this one promise: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Heb. 13:5, Mat. 28:20, et. al.)

This is a promise that no human, nor angel, nor any other creature can make. Only the all-knowing, all-present and all-powerful God can make this promise and it be sure. This is comfort in the worst of times, but also in the best of times. For it is in the best of times that we risk losing our resolve. More backsliding is done during the best of times than during the worst.

Indeed, the worst of times is when we really are compelled to draw closer to our precious Lord. I believe this is one of the reasons why our people here are growing so well and close to God. Because they simply do not have many of the comforts and distractions that most people in the Western nations do.

Here, people are thankful just to have clean drinking water. Here, they are thankful if they have electricity most of the time (but not consistently!). Here, people are happy and joyful when they are able to find work that pays them \$5 to \$10 a day for a 12-hour workday. Here there is rampant disease and political corruption. Here there is daily uncertainty and frequent chaos. Infrastructure here is fragile, storms wipe out whole villages, some times even entire cities.

What is constant for them? What is certain for them? What is secure, sure and sustained? It is the Word of God and His promises. Here without internet, without cars and without someplace to go every day, without money, and without a tangible ability or hope to "make it some day," it is much easier to lean on, rely on and trust on God in a more intimate way than if they had all those opportunities and distractions.

Here, in the midst of the third-world with its poverty, injustice and wide-spread paganism, God is raising up a people for Himself. It is not because of money, or any of my words or abilities, it is not by the power of well-wishing. It is by the power of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, because it is being preached here in the middle of the darkest spiritual darkness.

Thank you, my dear brethren, for sending us here to preach the gospel to them!

Prayer Requests:

- For God to give us a greater harvest of souls than ever
- For God to raise up Filipino leaders to His glory in the work here
- For our continued health and strength going forward in the work

Ups & Downs, Downs & Ups!

It's so amazing being in the gospel ministry. And mission work is extraordinary. We have learned and are learning so much. Throughout all, our Lord is there as He promised He would be. Watching the two mission works as they have developed has been one of the most interesting experiences in my life. They truly take on a personality of their own.

They are very different. We have been able to see, as it were, even how God has been dealing with each individual as well as with each as a whole. Certain things have happened to each, and certain blessings have flowed to and from each as well.



We have seen how each mission work (Duka & Babatngon) has reacted differently to different blessings and some of the same blessings. Also how each has reacted to diverse adversities. I have learned that there are hard decisions to make as a missionary pastor, just like any other pastor. There are times of great, unbelievable rejoicing, and there are times of inexplicable heartbreak.

There are even times here when there is drama that overshadows people's good sense. I have learned that I am not just a cloud-hopping soul winner, whistling "Lilly of the Valley" as rainbows and flowers fill the scene. At times I have been a shoulder to cry on, a go-between for disputing parties, a counsellor to troubled marriages, a target of someone's rage or envy, and a dumbfounded witness to the worst of human behavior.

Over all, this is the greatest work in the world and we would not trade it for anything. Just look at the face of the young lady in the picture above. Her name is Marissa. She was recently saved and baptized under our ministry. Here she is holding her brand new baptismal certificate. Just a few months ago this young lady was without hope and steeped in a false religion. Today she has the joy of an eternal hope with her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. She has already won a new Bible for memorizing 20 Bible verses, and since then has memorized over 50. Her and many others like her are worth it.

On October 18th we will be celebrating our 1st year anniversary at the mission work in Babatngon. We look forward to posting those pictures and videos on our Facebook account for you to enjoy. Thank you so much for your love, prayers and financial support for the sake of these. God bless you!

Because Jesus Christ lives,

Tony Tirse - Mat. 28:6

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